

2021 GOV Candidates for Board of Directors

Nominee: **Keith Black** (keithcblack@gmail.com)

Statement (153):

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors to continue representing the needs of GOV players and to help ensure effective management of the league. In my first year as Director, I was responsible for the development and implementation of our new Sponsorship Policy, which has already assisted the league in securing funding to help recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as provide new accessible services to our players. I have also been active in helping to promote increased diversity and inclusion within the league, and have assisted in various communication projects as well.

As a player in the league, I have been both a captain and player to amazing teammates!

If re-elected as a board member, my priorities will further focus on the development of a sustainable sponsorship program, as well as to continue developing operational capacity and capability throughout league activities.

Thank you for your consideration!

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Nominee: **Jackson Eyres** (jackson.eyres@gmail.com)

Statement (242):

I am a committed and hardworking individual with a flexible skill set and a significant background volunteering for LGBT+ nonprofits. I have a passionate STEM background, with a B.Sc. Biochemistry from Ottawa U, and a B. Sc CS Biomedical Computing from Carleton. I work for Agriculture Canada as a Bioinformatics Cloud Team Lead.

I have extensive volunteer experience with LGBT+ organizations having volunteered at UOttawa Pride Centre during my undergraduate degree, Queer Mafia (Event Hosting) and 9 years of participation with the Ottawa Wolves. During my tenure with the Ottawa Wolves, I was a decorated player, reliable volunteer, elected assistant captain and elected board member. I have participated in a variety of fundraising events such as Rugbeer (Social), Rite of Spring (Mud Wrestling), Jocks and Socks (Strip Show). I also have organized numerous successful fundraising events at Babylon nightclub. I assisted with the creation and promotion of the successful bid to host Bingham Cup, Ottawa 2022, the world's largest amateur and inclusive rugby tournament.

I served on the Ottawa Wolves executive board as Director of Fixtures where I was responsible for equipment procurement and maintenance, hiring medical personnel, painting fields, preparing medical kits and organizing fundraising events.

I have really enjoyed my time with GoV this year and see this as a great opportunity to challenge myself with new experiences. I wish to help GoV thrive post pandemic, and I believe my LGBT+ sports experience will prove to be a valuable asset.

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Nominee: **Martin Henry** (martin@govleague.ca)

Statement (245 (EN), 262 (FR)):

EN: Hello! I'm Martin Henry, and I would like to be re-elected to be part of GOV's Board of Directors.

I have been a member of the Board since the summer of 2019. I like crossing paths with you on the courts and talking about GOV, or about anything, really! Since I was elected, I have worked hard with other Board members to make GOV activities and communications bilingual, so that the National Capital Region's francophone community feels more represented and included. I would like to continue that work, as I think it is really important for francophones.

I'm not going to lie, I feel like the pandemic really stole the show in the last year and a half. I had ideas in mind that unfortunately did not happen. I was starting to think of a "rebranding" project, in which you, GOV participants, would have your say to improve GOV's image. This would have also included creating some official GOV merchandise (tank tops, t-shirts, water bottles, etc.). We also wanted to launch a few one-day tournaments in addition to our annual tournament and gala, to offer you more volleyball. These are only a few of the ideas I'd like to explore if I am re-elected.

I think my experience in the last few years and my knowledge of GOV's structure and governance make me a really good candidate for GOV's Board of Directors. If you choose to elect me, I'll work for you and with you.

FR : Bonjour! Mon nom est Martin Henry et j'aimerais solliciter un deuxième mandat pour siéger au Conseil d'administration (CA) de GOV.

En effet, je sié debate au CA depuis l'été 2019. J'adore vous croiser sur les terrains et vous jaser de GOV, ou de n'importe quoi, en fait! Depuis mon élection, j'ai travaillé avec les autres membres du conseil afin de rendre les activités et les communications aux participants de GOV bilingues, afin de mieux représenter et inclure la communauté francophone de la Région de la capitale nationale. J'aimerais continuer ce travail, qui est à mon avis très important pour les francophones.

Je ne le cacherai pas, j'ai l'impression que la pandémie nous a volé le show au cours de la dernière année et demie. J'avais en tête un projet de « rebranding », qui impliquait des consultations avec vous, les participants de GOV, pour améliorer l'image de GOV. Ça aurait aussi impliqué qu'on crée de la merchandise à l'effigie de GOV (tank tops, t-shirts, gourdes d'eau, etc.) à vendre pour vous. Nous avons aussi en tête de lancer des tournois d'une journée quelques fois par année, en plus de notre gros tournoi annuel et du gala, afin de vous offrir plus de volleyball. Ce ne sont que quelques-unes des idées que j'aimerais explorer si je suis réélu.

Je crois que mon expérience au cours des dernières années, ainsi que ma connaissance de la structure et du fonctionnement de GOV, font de moi un très bon administrateur au sein du CA. Si vous choisissez de me réélire, je travaillerai pour vous et avec vous.

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Nominee: **Dean MacDougall** (deanmacdougall@gmail.com)

Statement (239):

Re-elect Dean MacDougall as a GOV Board member!

I have been a Member of GOV's board since 2018. I acted as GOV's VP-Finance/treasurer for two and a half years where I led or helped with a number of initiatives to make GOV become a more formal organization as it has grown. These included:

- Initiating the practice of preparing formal budgets approved by the Board
- Developing a financial management policy
- Tracking our revenues and expenses with accounting software
- Incorporating GOV as a non-for-profit corporation (with Andre Scott)

More recently, in 2021, I obtained (with Dave Muddiman) a grant for GOV for \$28,000 from the Ontario government. This grant will help cover GOV's operating expenses in 2021-22 and put GOV back on secure financial footing after losses caused by the pandemic.

As a lawyer, I have helped the Board navigate a number of legal and policy issues, including contractual negotiations and governance issues. One of my main goals to help GOV advance as an organization is to obtain registered charitable status. This will significantly reduce GOV's tax burden and help with our fundraising goals, ultimately in an effort to keep costs down for GOV members.

I have been volunteering in the league for 6 years and I am strongly committed to GOV's growth and success, as a sports organization and more importantly as a community. I hope to continue to help GOV grow and succeed in another term on the Board.

2021 GOV Candidates for Board of Directors

Nominee: **A. Tiberias Murali (Tib)** (a.tiberias@govleague.ca)

Statement (250):

To fellow GoV members,

I would like to express my desire to join the Board of Directors of Gay Ottawa Volleyball. I am currently GoV's Vice President of Finance and will retain that role until my term of office expires in June 2022. I have over 5 years of Non-For-Profit governance and leadership experience as a former director for the largest single-sport gay league in Canada, the Toronto Spartan Volleyball League. I have over 8 years of experience as a union leader and have been employed in the operations and financial administrative field for over 10 years, as such I believe I would bring a lot of experience to the job. As a multi-racial/ethnic individual, I believe I will add more diversity to the board and allow for representation of disenfranchised communities within the LGBTQ2+ family.

Priorities if elected:

- 1) Create an independent **EDI Consultative Taskforce (EDICT)** that will evaluate GoV programming/policies and provide a report to make GoV more diverse, gain greater equity, and promote inclusivity.
- 2) Help GoV expand its strategic priorities to include a **Member's Benefit Program**. Where partnerships with other businesses and organizations will allow us to share discounts with those who purchase a membership card. Including fee reductions for specific GoV activities.
- 3) Create a **Player Fee Relief Program** that will help economically disenfranchised groups or individuals to seek equity in sports participation.

A vote for Tib is a vote for inclusion, fiscal responsibility, and accountability. In the beauty of our diversity lies our strengths.

2021 GOV Candidates for Board of Directors

Nominee: **Andre Scott** (Andrescott@outlook.com)

Statement (248 (EN), 292 (FR)):

EN: I'm Andre and I believe that I would be great fit as a Director of GOV because of my experience as sports organizer, my in-depth knowledge of the charitable sector, and my commitment to bringing all members of our community together. Throughout the last year we've felt the negative impacts of lockdowns and the erasure of our community spaces. Queer sports are not only about breaking a sweat, it's a much-needed lifeline and source of connection for many people in our community.

My previous work with GOV included organizing the organization's first summer league. This labour of love gave me the opportunity to meet and play alongside many of you, while we navigated the pitfalls of community recreation in the post-pandemic era.

Outside of sports, I'm a Tax Economist for the Federal Government specialized in charities and non-profits and I have honed my skills in this field over the last five years. As a bureaucrat, I can appreciate that a solid set of rules greatly benefits the operation of an organization – however, I have also seen the downside of over-structuring otherwise straightforward decisions.

As a mature organization I believe that it's time we explore more partnerships, that we keep costs low, and that we become more inclusive to all the other stripes of the rainbow. I want to make sure that GOV continues being the best sports league in the Capital, while making sure that our organization's bureaucracy doesn't continue to hamper the progress that we rightfully deserve.

FR : Je m'appelle André. Je suis convaincu que je suis la bonne personne pour occuper le poste de directeur de GOV. Notamment, car j'ai l'expérience dans l'organisation d'évènements sportifs, car j'ai de l'expertise dans le secteur de la bienfaisance et surtout, car je suis engagé à rassembler tous les membres de notre communauté. Pendant la dernière année et demie, nous avons senti les impacts négatifs du confinement et l'effacement des espaces dédiés à notre communauté. Au-delà de l'exercice, la pratique de sports pour les LGBTQia2+ est un besoin pour nos vies et, pour nombreux parmi nous, un point de connexion avec nos pairs.

Cette année, j'ai travaillé dans l'organisation de la première ligue d'été de GOV. Ce projet, que j'ai mené par amour, m'a donné la belle opportunité de vous rencontrer et de jouer avec vous. Cela s'est passé en même temps qu'on surmontait tous les obstacles d'avoir du loisir communautaire dans l'ère de la pandémie.

Dans ma vie professionnelle, je suis économiste au Gouvernement fédéral. Je suis spécialisé dans le domaine des charités et des organismes non lucratifs et j'ai perfectionné mes compétences à cet égard au long des 5 dernières années. Comme fonctionnaire, j'apprécie l'encadrement solide des règles qui bénéficient une organisation. Pour autant, je reconnais les inconvénients causés par la rigidité des structures et son impact dans l'efficacité de la prise de décisions.

Tant qu'organisation mature que nous sommes, je crois que nous devons explorer davantage les partenariats, qu'on doit garder bas nos coûts d'opération et qu'on doit vraiment prioriser « les autres couleurs de l'arc-en-ciel ». Je veux m'assurer que GOV continuera à être la meilleure ligue de sports à Ottawa et je veux m'assurer que la bureaucratie de notre organisation ne gênera pas le progrès que l'on mérite.

2021 GOV Candidates for Board of Directors

Nominee: **Matthew Trottier** (matthew_trottier@outlook.com)

Statement (250):

My name is Matthew Trottier and I am currently studying at the University of Ottawa for an Honours BSocSc in Political Science and Public Administration. I am bilingual in both French and English, and I believe that I could be a great fit as a director with the GOV.

As a co-founder of a non-profit project, I understand how important it is to build a strong, inclusive and positive community and connections with individuals and to have positive leadership skills. I was also part of the Governing Board of my high school as a Co-Chair Student's Representative. I had the chance to vote on projects, budgets and to practise my knowledge with policy making and other related practices. I have hosted and organized more than 30 events during my academic path, which always resulted successfully and were much appreciated by the community. Teamwork, communication, and collaboration are three main components of my practice.

I have various professional and volunteer experiences. I am a human-focussed individual who believes in fair treatment, communication, listening, partnership and understanding. It is so important in a community like us to be able to listen and care about each other.

To conclude, I also want to share my passion for sports! I try to be as active as I can every day and to participate in sports. Organizing events and being part of the GOV's Board of Directors would be an amazing opportunity to give back to my community in an inclusive, healthy and positive way!