



FUSION HFX

2016 Chair's Report
Fusion Halifax
Annual General Meeting

Submitted by:
Alyson Murray

November 16, 2016



Dear Members, Partners and Supporters,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Fusion Halifax's annual general meeting; thank you for joining us tonight to play an active role in the governance of Fusion Halifax and to learn more about the past year! Your continued enthusiasm for the work of Fusion Halifax has allowed the organization to evolve in ways that will have short term and long term impacts on the opportunities available to young professionals in our city. Our work has been guided by our motto of 'Connect. Engage. Inspire.' and the strategic priorities of the organization.

As a volunteer run, not for profit organization I know that I speak for all directors, past and present when I say how immensely proud I am that Fusion Halifax is entering its tenth year. There is no question that this longevity is the result of continued engagement from all of you as well as the ongoing support found within the broader Halifax community. We value the relationships that we have with our partners in the business, not for profit and public sectors and are committed to continuing to build opportunities for Halifax's 20-40 year olds alongside these partners whenever possible.

In 2015-16 we were able to host 56 events including our first ever conference, the Atlantic Leadership Forum. We saw continued membership growth with 191 new members and even greater interest on social media gaining 598 new Facebook likes and building a Twitter following of over 11,400. Fusion's members are dynamic, dedicated and great ambassadors for young professionals in Halifax. To those of you who have become further engaged this year as a volunteer or action team member, thank you. I hope that you'll continue to lend your time and talents to Fusion's many initiatives.

The commitment and tireless work ethic demonstrated by the board of directors over the past year has been remarkable. As a group, the directors represented diverse perspectives and brought complimentary skill sets to the table. The action team directors; Jesse Adams, Akram Al-otumi, Negin Hamed, Naomi Hill, Shauna Smith, David Quilichini and Jeremy VanSlyke not only organized events and hosted team meetings but they also drew awareness to issues in their action teams' area of interest and represented their teams at events throughout the city. They were supported by an outstanding group of operational and executive directors; Matthew Burke, Lori Cadelli, Sabina Pollayparambil, Rohan Rajpal, Sasha Sears and Leanne Tremblay who balanced fiscal responsibility with innovative programming, sound governance and enhanced operational efficiencies. Every director enthusiasm, a spirit of collaboration and tenacity to their work. The successes of this year belong to all of the directors and each one has my sincere thanks for the role they've played in making this year a great success.

The experience of the returning board members is complimented by the fresh perspectives that the incoming directors will bring. Having worked alongside many of the directors I know that Fusion Halifax is well positioned to find success, continued growth and prosperity in its 10th anniversary year under the leadership of incoming chair, Sasha Sears who has been a dedicated and valued colleague of mine. It is with optimism and confidence that I step aside to welcome the new board. It's been a pleasure to serve as chair for the past year, thank you for your trust in me.

Sincerely,
Alyson Murray

