

**Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association
Board of Directors Nomination Form**

I, Chris Short, representing The Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Edmonton hereby nominate Joumana Ghandour, representing The Westin Edmonton for election to the Board of Directors of the Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association.

For the nominee:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of the AHLA?

I have always appreciated all the work the AHLA has done for our hotels, especially in the last year with the difficulties our industry faced with Covid. I would like to give back to our industry.

2. What skills, abilities & experience would you bring to the AHLA's Board? What other boards do you presently serve on?

After completing a Masters in Hotel and Food Administration at the University of Guelph, I started my career in 1998 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, where I held several positions including Director of Revenue Management and Director of Six Sigma. Since 2005 I have been General Manager in three different markets, preparing me for my current role as GM at the Westin Edmonton:

- 2012- current GM Westin Edmonton (416 rooms)
- 2008-2012 GM Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Toronto's International Airport (474 rooms) – 2008 and 2012 Sheraton Hotel of the Year in North America
- 2005-2008 GM Sheraton Hamilton (301 rooms)
- 2005 Pre-Opening GM at The Suites at 1 King West (condo hotel with 585 units)

Board / Committee Experience:

- Director EDMH as of 2020
- Director Edmonton Downtown Business Association 2013 - 2018
- Director Hotel Association of Greater Edmonton 2015-2019
- On The Books Committee – Edmonton Tourism – I have put time and energy towards the betterment of the EDMH serving on the OTB Committee
- Director and First Vice President, Tourism Hamilton, 2007-2008; active in implementing DMF in Hamilton

I consider myself a critical thinker and a strong collaborator. I believe that success is driven by being inclusive, embracing all stakeholders and participants, big or small. My leadership style includes supporting two-way, transparent communication. I believe in open dialogue and asking for input so that all opportunities can be expressed and explored. I would be honoured to be on the board of the AHLA, bringing a strategic, new perspective to this important role as we chart the course of the recovery for our industry.

3. What AHLA programs & services does your property participate in?

Our hotel participates in the utilities programs.

*Please email the completed form to nominations@ahla.ca by 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 26, 2021.
Information provided on this form will be made available to the Governance Committee and AHLA members
as part of the election of the Board of Directors.*

4. What do you believe are the greatest challenges our industry faces?

Our industry faces several challenges: the long term impact of the pandemic, managing the recovery without jeopardizing the long term wellbeing of our industry, the marketing destination funds and the risks of hotels losing control of their management and finally the impact of Air BnB.

We have an opportunity to better align all the various organizations that represent our industry to have one strong unified & aligned voice.

5. What role do you think the AHLA should play in addressing these?

The AHLA can continue to advocate for continued DMFs, taxation of Air BnB (level the playing field) and support hotels with the recovery (safe program designations).

6. How would you work to bring this about as a member of the AHLA's Board?

I need some time to learn about the board's operation. I would bring about the perspective our of our Edmonton downtown hotels and others in my brand. I would like to bring various hotel organizations to the table, so that we can better define our roles and strengthen our collaboration.

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