

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Rideau, Ottawa
 April 11, 2019

**Announcing the Downtown Rideau B.I.A. 2019-2022 Board Term
 Board Executive and Standing Committee Chairs**

The Downtown Rideau Business Improvement Area (D.R.B.I.A.) is pleased to announce that the **Downtown Rideau Board of Management** approved its Executive Committee for the 2019-2022 board term at its April 10, 2019 board meeting. The Board was elected (acclaimed) by D.R.B.I.A. members at the organization’s Annual General Meeting on December 10, 2018 and appointed by Ottawa City Council on February 27, 2019. Standing Committee Chairs remain the same as previous term.



Board Executive

1. Chair: Brian O'Hoski, GM, Cadillac-Fairview/CF Rideau Centre
2. Vice-Chair: Sean Rutherford, VP, Clocktower Group of Brew Pubs
3. Treasurer: Jeremy Francis, COO, Rebel.com
4. Past-Chair: Donna Holtom, Owner, Holtz Spa
5. Secretary: Peggy DuCharme, Executive Director, D.R.B.I.A. (non-voting)

Standing Committee Chairs

1. Finance & Governance: Treasurer Jeremy Francis
2. Marketing & Tourism Committee: Alexandra Badzak, Director & CEO, Ottawa Art Gallery
3. Clean & Safe Committee Co-Chairs: Brian Kennedy, Asset Protection Manager, Hudson's Bay Rideau with Chrystal Duperron, Store Manager, Hudson's Bay Rideau

More About the Downtown Rideau B.I.A.

Downtown Rideau represents **600+ businesses** spanning **53-blocks** surrounding Rideau Street east of Parliament Hill between Elgin Street and the Rideau River. The district welcomes over **315,000 people daily** and is the **spine** of both the cities of Ottawa’s and Gatineau’s **downtown transit and interprovincial corridors**. It is the location of the soon to be opened **LRT Rideau Station**. The D.R.B.I.A. was formed in 1981 as a **Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.)** to represent area businesses during a massive public transit investment in downtown that included the building of the CF Rideau Centre, Convention Centre (Shaw) and Westin Hotel. The business community decided to form the B.I.A. to **promote** the district under the Downtown Rideau brand and **represent** its business community during this critical timeline. The B.I.A. is an incorporated not-for-profit local board of the municipality.

Provincial Authority

2001, c.25, s.c204.1 of the **Ontario Municipal Act (OMA)** provides a B.I.A. the authority to:

- **oversee** the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally-owned land, buildings and structures in the area -- beyond that provided at the expense of the municipality generally;
- **promote** the area as a business or shopping district

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Mandate

To **promote** Downtown Rideau as a shopping, dining, cultural and tourism destination and **advocate** for its economic viability within the City of Ottawa.

Vision

To create an inviting, world-class, quality **shopping** 'Main Street' and '**Cultural Hub**' destination.

Funding

- The B.I.A. is not publicly funded.
- It **is privately funded** from a self-imposed tax levy paid by the B.I.A. membership.
- All **commercially assessed tax properties** (members) within the B.I.A. boundary automatically pay a levy tax to fund the B.I.A.
- Large properties with tenants typically include the B.I.A. levy portion in the tenant's rent, thereby making the tenant the B.I.A. member.
- Additional revenue is received from grants, sponsorships, advertising and user-fees.
- As a self-help not-for-profit organization, the D.R.B.I.A. is run by a **volunteer** Board of Management elected by D.R.B.I.A. members and supported by D.R.B.I.A. staff.
- Under the **leadership** of the Board of Management, the D.R.B.I.A. is 100% dedicated to helping its members make Downtown Rideau more attractive, dynamic and prosperous for all business members.

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For further information contact:

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