

Nominee: Rod Charles

Nominator: Jodi Holliday / Jantine Van Kregten

My name is Rod Charles, managing partner and deputy editor at Vacay.ca™ and chair of TMAC Ontario chapter. I would like to present myself as a candidate for the Travel Media Association of Canada national board.

Vacay.ca is a leading source of Canadian travel. Independently owned and produced by award-winning Canadian journalists and travel experts, Vacay.ca uses the wealth of its editorial experience, knowledge and industry contacts to deliver authoritative information about the best places to see, sleep and eat in Canada. As well as editor at Vacay.ca, I have also written for Readers Digest, Toronto Star, Globe and Mail and Brewers Journal Magazine.

TMAC has given me an opportunity not only to learn but be a leader. As chair of Ontario Chapter I am proud of our work during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Together we have organized successful Munch & Mingles and initiated an anti-racism grant at Ryerson University.

I have enjoyed being a member of TMAC. Since my first conference in Fredericton my career has benefitted from wonderful personal and professional relationships. Vacay.ca is successful and continues to exceed expectations but it wasn't always so. I am grateful to members of TMAC who reached out when I joined, made me feel welcome and recognized the value of Vacay.ca at a time when a few questioned if online publications qualified as "real" journalism. It's primarily for this reason why I have such a desire to give back to TMAC and be a source of support, as others were to me.

I have always had a heart to serve and this is reflected in my experience which includes sitting on the board of the White Ribbon Campaign - Men Working to End Violence Against Women and volunteering with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto. I have also volunteered with Toronto Mass Choir, an award-winning gospel choir and lead a city-wide anti-poverty initiative in Hamilton, Ontario.

Thank you for considering my nomination.