

# **2025 ELECTION CANDIDATE BROCHURE**

**CANDIDATE BROCHURE & VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Vote for your Board of Directors**

**March 20, 2025 – April 8, 2025**

**MERIDIAN CREDIT UNION LIMITED**

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## VOTING FOR YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Annually, Meridian holds nominations to fill vacancies for expiring terms or to fill other vacancies that may have occurred in accordance with Meridian's By-laws and policies. This year, there are four expiring terms to be filled. When the candidates exceed the number of vacancies, a vote by the Members is held.

This year, there are five (5) candidates standing for election (in alphabetical order):

- Matthew Davies (Recommended)
- Stacy Grant-Thompson (Recommended)
- Lianne Hannaway (Recommended)
- Gail Harding (Recommended)
- Ali Suleman

## NOMINATIONS OF RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE PROCESS

The Nominating Committee works independently from the Board of Directors and is responsible for ensuring the integrity and quality of the Director nomination and election process.

All applications are evaluated, however only Qualified Candidates are considered beyond the application part of the process. To be a Qualified Candidate, an individual must i) meet the Director eligibility requirements outlined in By-law #1; ii) meet the Director attributes and knowledge; and iii) have one or more skills and expertise identified in Board Selection Criteria and which that best complement the current Board.

The Nominating Committee undertakes a comprehensive process to select the Candidates who they consider are best qualified to fill the positions available. They engage an independent external advisor who assesses applications for eligibility, and conducts preliminary interviews of selected Qualified Candidates, including incumbent directors, on behalf of the Committee. The Nominating Committee then selects a short list of Qualified Candidates to interview.

Upon completion of its interviews, the Nominating Committee recommends the best-Qualified Candidates to fill the available positions on the Board, equal to the number of vacancies.

This process ensures Meridian's Membership can be satisfied that the Recommended Candidates are, in the view of the Committee, the best qualified individuals to serve Meridian's Members. Any Candidate not interviewed and/or not being recommended may request that their name appear on the ballot to participate in an election.

## MATTHEW DAVIES (RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE)

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I am honoured to be considered by Meridian's Nominating Committee to serve on the Meridian Credit Union board of directors.

I have spent my career focused on helping organizations securely leverage technology to make a difference. In my most recent role, as the Chief Technology Officer for Shared Services Canada, I was instrumental in helping drive modernization and digital transformation for an organization that manages the infrastructure for over one hundred Government of Canada departments and agencies. Prior this role I held senior leadership positions at Ciena Canada, Akara and Deloitte. In 2023, I was recognized as one of the Global Top 50 Government Innovators. I also received a global CCISO Hall of Fame Runner-Up award having previously been awarded the CCISO Award at the 2020 CISO Forum Canada for my outstanding contributions to cybersecurity in Canada.

I have also had the opportunity to speak regularly at industry events as either a keynote speaker or panelist, sharing valuable insights on future trends, strategy, digital transformation, cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and more recently sustainability.

As an experienced corporate director, I have obtained both by Chartered Director and Audit Committee Certified designations. I am currently a board member and committee chair on both the University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) and Hydro Ottawa boards. For the UOHI, Canada's largest and foremost heart health centre, I serve on the Audit Committee and Chair for the IT Committee. For Hydro Ottawa, I serve as Chair for the Governance and Management Resources Committee and am a member of the Audit and Strategic Initiatives Oversight Committees. As a firm believer in continuous learning, I have completed the NACD's CERT Certificate in Cybersecurity Oversight program from Carnegie Mellon University and the Institute of Corporate Director's Board Oversight of Climate Change course. I graduated from the University of Ottawa and am also Chartered Professional Accountant. I have also completed Executive Education Programs at the Tuck School of Business and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

In closing, when I completed my board certification training, I received some valuable advice, look for boards that impact your life and where you think you can add value. I am both excited and confident that my experience coupled with my understanding of accounting, governance and risk management, technology and cybersecurity will allow me to make a positive contribution and add value to the Meridian board.

## STACEY GRANT-THOMPSON (RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE)

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I am honoured to be nominated to serve a second term on the Board of Directors of Meridian Credit Union. I believe in Meridian's corporate purpose – helping people live better lives. For me, financial literacy is an essential skill and key enabler for people to live better. Meridian supports members with financial education, advice and planning tools as well as offering specific actions to support equity-deserving groups. These efforts are important and can create significant positive impact in the community. In addition, Meridian's focus on digital transformation, brand development and leverage of artificial intelligence are closely aligned with my professional experience and interest.

I have a very strong marketing and customer experience background, with experience as a Chief Marketing Officer in several financial services organizations, most recently at Manulife Canada. I have successfully built brands from the ground-up, re-positioned them as well as rapidly scaled their growth in financial services and telecom. I have distinctive expertise in customer experience design and digital marketing. I've led multiple digital transformation initiatives related to marketing, sales, service, and operations. I also have extensive practical experience in artificial intelligence; assessment of value drivers, model development, implementation strategy, change management and optimization.

In addition to my experience as a Chief Marketing Officer, I also have executive experience in several other roles including leading a functional strategy team as SVP Strategy at Manulife Canada and as a GM & SVP Consumer Markets, where I was the General Manager of multiple insurance businesses with P&L responsibility. This range of executive roles and experience across industries has given me a multi-faceted perspective that pragmatically integrates strategy, operational requirements and change management.

At MCU, I'm currently the Chair of the Governance committee and a member of the Risk Committee. I also serve as a Board Director for Motus bank, a subsidiary of MCU. I'm passionate about education and the opportunities education and mentorship can create for empowerment, job opportunities, and better lives. Currently, I'm on the Board of Pathways to Education where I also Chair the Human Resources committee. Mentorship is a critical component in personal development. I am a Mentor for early-stage companies in Creative Destruction Labs' Artificial Intelligence stream and I am a member of two Advisory Boards working with early-stage digital companies.

I look forward to leveraging my passion and experience to actively contribute to the success of MCU through my Director position.

## LIANNE HANNAWAY (RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE)

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I am honoured and excited to be recommended to continue serving on the Meridian Credit Union Board of Directors. My commitment to purpose-driven organizations spans more than fifteen years, during which I've contributed as a director to member-driven and not-for-profit organizations. I strongly believe that Meridian's innovative, adaptive, and collaborative approach to financial empowerment positions our Credit Union to effectively navigate challenges and provide exceptional service to our members and communities.

I bring extensive governance experience and recently obtained an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. During my three years at Meridian, I've actively served on the Audit & Finance Committee, chaired the Nominating Committee for one year, and currently contribute to the Governance Committee. My board service extends to Embark Student Corporation & Foundation, Kids Help Phone, and Equality Fund, where I serve as Treasurer and chair the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee. Previously, I served on Humber College's board in roles on both the Audit & Risk and Academic & Student Affairs Committees.

As founder of Wealthnuvo Financial, I've created a wealth advisory platform to help underrepresented women build generational wealth by addressing their relationship with money. My Trauma of Money™ practitioner certification enables me to facilitate frameworks for healing financial traumas and creating financial well-being. This work fuels my passion for economic empowerment for all Canadians, especially those who are underserved and underestimated.

My professional background includes senior leadership positions at TMX Group as Managing Director, Business Finance & Controller and at KPMG LLP as Partner in the Toronto Accounting Advisory Practice. This experience has provided me with strategic financial management expertise, business transformation insights, and cross-functional collaboration skills - all valuable assets for Meridian's continued growth.

With my academic credentials, including a Bachelor of Mathematics and Master of Accountancy from the University of Waterloo and my Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation, I bring a robust financial foundation to my board service.

I look forward to actively contributing to Meridian Credit Union's success and serving our members with dedication and integrity.

## GAIL HARDING (RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE)

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I am excited and honoured to be recommended to serve for a third term on the board of Meridian Credit Union. I have over 30 years of experience as a financial services executive and corporate lawyer at a regional financial institution where I was responsible for the legal, governance, regulatory compliance and ethics functions. During this time I also sat on the boards of its subsidiaries which offered equipment financing, wealth management, insurance and trust services.

I am currently Chair of the Risk Committee and a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. I have also served on the Governance Committee and the Nominating Committee. I believe that my knowledge and experience will assist Meridian as it continues to deliver on its strategic priorities in an increasingly complex regulatory environment. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve on the Board of a member focused organization and be part of Meridian's sustainable growth journey. I am particularly interested in leveraging new technologies to provide an exceptional member experience.

I have extensive board experience in numerous not-for-profit, crown corporation, professional association and corporate boards. I have also served on the advisory council to a university business school as well as the C.D. Howe Institute Financial Services Research Council. I am an active volunteer in the community and my profession. I am passionate about diversity and inclusion and have served as a mentor and on the advisory board of a number of initiatives aimed to increase the number of women in senior positions. In recognition of my contributions I have received a Women in Law Leadership award, a Canadian General Counsel award and the King's counsel designation.

I have a Bachelor of Education (Honours), a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws. I am a strong believer in continuous learning and have obtained the ICD.D from the Institute of Corporate Directors, the FSA designation from the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board and the GCB.D in ESG from Global Competent Boards.

## ALI SULEMAN

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I am honoured to be given the opportunity to be placed on the ballot to serve as a Director on Meridian Credit Union's Board of Directors. I see this position as a platform for me to make a meaningful impact and help guide the Organization towards a sustainable future and prosperity for its members. I have supported Meridian as a member for over 30 years, and I am very proud of its growth and achievements. If elected, I intend to contribute to its continued success by bringing my community, cooperative and socially responsible mindset, and my in-depth experience, knowledge, insights and financial acumen to ethical strategic decision-making and moving the organization forward.

I have over thirty-three years of Treasury experience with Ontario Hydro and Hydro One, and served as Vice President and Treasurer of Hydro One for twenty-five years. Prior to Ontario Hydro, I spent a number of years working in the municipal bond and mortgage-backed securities markets in the United States. I have gained deep experience in Treasury, Finance, Risk Management, Regulatory Matters, Mergers and Acquisitions, and many other related fields. I successfully navigated the organization through some very difficult and challenging credit and liquidity conditions. Over the years, I made a significant contribution in a number of areas, including establishing the company's highly successful financing platforms, as well as obtaining low-cost financing for Hydro One's Indigenous Partners in an innovative, precedent-setting, and industry leading transaction. I was a key player in developing and executing Hydro One's ESG strategy. In 2023, I spearheaded the establishment of Hydro One's Sustainable Financing Framework, and executed the largest corporate sustainable bond offering in Canada at the time.

My governance work and engagement with organizations focused on improving the well being of their communities aligns well with Meridian's desire to provide financial confidence, support equity deserving communities, and provide long-term benefits to its membership. I served on the Board of the Wellesley Institute and chaired its Investment Committee. I currently serve on the Board of the Institute for Research on Public Policy and chair its Investment Committee. I also serve on the Hospital Board of the Scarborough Health Network. Like Meridian, these organizations are all dedicated to improving the wellbeing of their communities.

I graduated with a BA (Economics), and an MBA (Finance), both from York University in Toronto. I hold the ICD.D accreditation from the Institute of Corporate Directors of Toronto.



# VOTING DETAILS

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## RULES OF VOTING

You are required to vote for exactly four (4) Candidates from the list of five (5). A ballot that records fewer than four (4), or more than four (4), will be declared void.

## HOW TO VOTE

Anytime from Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EST, you can vote online at <https://www.directvote.net/MERCU> or from our website at [www.meridianCU.ca/AGM](http://www.meridianCU.ca/AGM). If you don't have access to a computer, you may vote at our Meridian branches during business hours.

## ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Each Member who holds \$1.00 in Membership shares on or before March 10, 2025 (other than a Member under the age of 18 years) is eligible to cast a ballot.

## Proxy Voting for Corporations, Partnerships, or Unincorporated Associations

Corporations, Partnerships or Unincorporated Associations may vote using a written proxy form that is available online at [www.meridiancu.ca/AGM](http://www.meridiancu.ca/AGM). The proxy form must be completed and signed by a registered officer of the business entity, provided they are on record as such with Meridian. The form must be either: scanned and emailed to [AGM@meridianCU.ca](mailto:AGM@meridianCU.ca); or mailed by Canada Post, after which voting credentials will be provided to you. The person casting the vote under the proxy does not have to be an officer of the corporation or Member of the Credit Union.

## PROXY FORM SUBMISSION OPTIONS

1. Email: [AGM@meridianCU.ca](mailto:AGM@meridianCU.ca)
2. Mail: ATTN: Returning Officer  
Re: Meridian's 2025 Director Election  
75 Corporate Park Drive  
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3W3

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The results of the Board of Directors Election will be announced at the 2025 Annual General Meeting on April 22, 2025 which will take place in person and online at 6:00 p.m. EST. For more information on the AGM and how you can participate, visit [www.meridiancu.ca/AGM](http://www.meridiancu.ca/AGM).

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

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## ONLINE

### STEP 1

Visit the following webpage: <https://www.directvote.net/MERCU/>

The link to the voting page may also be accessed by visiting [www.meridiancu.ca/AGM](http://www.meridiancu.ca/AGM) and clicking on Vote Now.

### STEP 2

Validate your voting eligibility by entering the following information where prompted:

- Your Meridian account number where you hold your \$1 share as your unique voter identification; and
- Your Password (combination of your postal code and home phone number as explained on the screen).

**Note:** You can bypass this step if you received an email from Meridian with your personalized voting link. If you did not receive this email and would like to receive a direct voting link for future elections, please contact your branch or Meridian's Contact Centre at 1-866-592-2226 to ensure your email address is on file.

### STEP 3

Review the Candidates for the available Board positions. Those Candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee will be indicated.

- To vote, click in the box next to each of the four (4) Candidates for whom you wish to vote;
- Select "Next" at the bottom of the screen;
- Review and submit your choice; and
- Once your vote has been cast, no further vote for the Directors Election will be accepted on your Membership.

## NEED HELP?

If you have any problems or questions, first review the Frequently Asked Questions available on the secure online voting site or [www.meridiancu.ca/AGM](http://www.meridiancu.ca/AGM).

If you can't find the answer to your question, please email [meridiancuhelp@cues.org](mailto:meridiancuhelp@cues.org).

# JOIN US AT THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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**DATE:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** MERIDIAN ARTS CENTRE, 5040 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario

All Members are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in Meridian's Annual General Meeting. Having your say and your involvement in the Annual General Meeting is part of what makes our credit union a unique place to do business.

**Registration & Refreshments:** 5:00 PM

**AGM Commencement:** 6:00 PM

[Register here to attend in-person](#)

## AGM WEBCAST DETAILS

If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate by live webcast. Members are asked to send a request by email to [AGM@meridianCU.ca](mailto:AGM@meridianCU.ca).

## TELECONFERENCE

Members who wish to use teleconference are asked to call 1-866-592-2226 for further instructions.

[View Notice of Meetings](#)