



For Immediate Release

March 31, 2023

**Gordon Stewart is retiring as Executive Director
of the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia**

Halifax, N.S. – It is bittersweet that we announce the retirement of our fearless leader, Gordon Stewart. As of April 7, 2023, Gordon will be retiring as the Executive Director of the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS). We are excited for him to have this well-deserved break after 20+ years of devotion to the association and the food & beverage industry, however, to say he will be missed is an understatement.

Gordon has been a champion of local restauranteurs, advocating for the food and beverage industry on crucial issues and working to lower the knowledge barrier for those looking to own and operate a restaurant in Nova Scotia. Before Gordon joined RANS as the Executive Director, he was the founding President of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, and past Vice-Chairman of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC). He completed a long-term contract for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) that involved policy writing and the development and implementation of structural changes to the operation and management of the tourism sector for Atlantic Canada. Gordon continues to serve on a wide variety of Boards & Commissions related to the tourism and hospitality industry.



Throughout Gordon's time at RANS, he has overseen and helped navigate many challenges that the restaurant industry has faced. During the pandemic, Gordon and his team at RANS worked to support the industry through one of the most challenging times they have ever experienced. Whether it was advocating for third-party delivery of alcohol, dogs on patios, reduced financial pressures, or grant submissions to help provide resources and services to the industry, Gordon has always worked above and beyond to ensure the survival and success of the industry. The association was acknowledged repeatedly for its outstanding work in supporting the industry throughout Covid-19.

Gordon is also a spearhead for the very popular Savour Food & Wine Festival which hosts five major foodie events throughout Halifax, including the Savour Show and Imbibe, which are coming up this month. Gordon will oversee his final Savour Show on April 6th at The Westin Hotel and of course, he will be well celebrated at both the event and a proper farewell party.

Gordon has many fantastic sayings, but one that resonates the most with the industry is

this, “*good things come to those who wait...but only after those who have hustled.*”
Gordon, it’s been a pleasure. We wish you all the best in this next chapter of your life.

Sincerely,
The RANS Team
Board of Directors, Committee Members, Natasha, Heather, and Danielle



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About RANS

Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS) is an organization that celebrates and supports restaurants across Nova Scotia. An advocate, resource and community, RANS works to provide restauranteurs with all they need to succeed in the fast-paced food and beverage industry.

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