



## Who We Are

Festival Hydro Services Inc. (FHSI), operating as Rhyzome Networks, is seeking an experienced and dedicated individual to join its Board of Directors. Rhyzome Networks specializes in data connectivity and data centre solutions, serving industrial, commercial, and residential customers. The company operates a robust infrastructure, including more than 50 km of fibre optic cable and Wi-Fi access points in Stratford, St. Marys, and six additional communities in southwestern Ontario.

Wholly owned by the City of Stratford, Rhyzome Networks is an essential component of the City's strategy to position Stratford as a leading digital technology hub and an internationally recognized intelligent community. For more information, visit [rhyzome.ca](http://rhyzome.ca).

## Position Summary

The Board Member serves as a key leader in the governance and strategic direction of Rhyzome Networks. This role is responsible for ensuring corporate accountability, financial sustainability, and adherence to governance best practices. Board Members play a crucial role in shaping the organization's long-term vision, evaluating risks, and ensuring alignment with its mission to position Stratford as a leading digital technology hub. The Board provides oversight on business operations, financial management, and regulatory compliance, helping drive sustainable growth and innovation in telecommunications and technology services.

Board Members are expected to provide informed and objective perspectives on organizational matters, contributing to decision-making processes that promote transparency, efficiency, and the company's overall success. They serve as ambassadors for Rhyzome Networks, fostering relationships with key stakeholders and advocating for strategic initiatives that align with the organization's goals.

## Key Responsibilities

- Provide governance oversight, ensuring compliance with corporate governance frameworks and legal obligations.
- Contribute to the development, evaluation, and execution of Rhyzome Networks' strategic initiatives.
- Assess and monitor financial performance, approving budgets, business plans, and major expenditures.
- Identify and mitigate business risks, ensuring the company operates within an effective risk management framework.
- Review and approve corporate policies, internal controls, and ethical business practices.
- Provide guidance and support on business development strategies, including partnerships, expansion, and innovation in technology infrastructure.
- Represent the interests of shareholders, ensuring that the company operates with accountability and transparency.

- Engage in discussions on regulatory and industry developments that may impact the company.
- Attend quarterly, in-person Board meetings in Stratford, Ontario, and participate in Board training and orientation programs.
- Collaborate with other Board Members and senior leadership to drive organizational success.

### **Required Skills & Qualifications**

- Demonstrated leadership experience with a track record of strategic decision-making.
- Strong understanding of corporate governance, fiduciary responsibilities, and regulatory compliance.
- Expertise in telecommunications, distributed energy resources, smart city infrastructure, or environmental sustainability.
- Knowledge of financial management, budgeting, and risk assessment.
- Expertise in cybersecurity principles as a strategic asset in protecting organizational integrity and data.
- Experience in business development, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including executives, government officials, and industry partners.
- Strong analytical and critical-thinking skills with the ability to evaluate complex business decisions.
- High level of integrity, ethical leadership, and professional judgment.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Preferred experience serving on a Board of Directors or in an executive leadership role; accreditation as a board director (e.g., ICD.D or equivalent) considered an asset
- Background in technology infrastructure, smart city initiatives, regulatory affairs, or emerging markets.
- Familiarity with public-private partnerships and government relations.
- Knowledge of employment law, labour relations, or human resources management.

### **Commitment & Expectations**

- Serve a four-year term with active participation in Board activities.
- Ability to attend quarterly, in-person Board meetings in Stratford, Ontario, with additional time commitments for ad-hoc discussions and decision-making as needed.
- Engage in periodic communications and strategic discussions outside of formal meetings.
- Participate in Board education, orientation programs, and professional development opportunities.
- Advocate for Rhizome Networks and contribute to the organization's reputation and success in the industry.

### **Application Instructions**

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter via email to [hr@rhizome.ca](mailto:hr@rhizome.ca) with the subject line **"Rhizome Networks Board of Directors."** The application deadline is **May 26, 2025**.

We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

### **Accessibility Accommodations:**

Festival Hydro Services Inc. is committed to an inclusive recruitment process. Accommodations are available upon request. Applicants invited for an interview should inform Human Resources of any accommodation needs in advance.