

**SAIL CANADA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CANDIDATE NOMINATION INFORMATION**

***Olivia Mew***

*Toronto Island, Ontario*

*RCYC & Toronto Windsurfing club*

**PASSION FOR SAILING**

Born into a family of sailmakers and growing up in the small community of Toronto Island, I had no choice but to be exposed to all aspects of sailing from a very early age. I have sailed everything from junior club opti`s at RCYC up to cruising on my family`s 30` keelboat. I have experienced the serenity of helming the great lakes tall ship Pathfinder at 4 knots as the sun comes up and the exhilaration of blasting at 30 knots on a shortboard. I have raced on dinghies, keelboats and of course Windsurfing in the Olympic RSX class. I have taught countless kids and adults how to enjoy our sport as an instructor at the Toronto Windsurfing club and I am currently learning the leading edge of sailing – kiting in my spare time. As I write this, I am sailing intercollegiate for my school Queen`s university in 420`s.

In 2015 after just 5 years of beginning windsurfing, I became the youngest female on that years National team. In my second year on the national team I qualified Canada for Rio and I am the current Canadian and North American RSX Champion. In May, I finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the Weymouth World cup. My sailing has taken me all over Canada and to many parts of the World. Before making the National team, I trained extensively as a guest member of the Elite Quebec sailing team and see myself as a sailor from all of Canada, not just Ontario. In 2015, the Canadian Mint selected the image of me windsurfing which was featured on a \$10 coin minted as part of their adventure series.

I take great pride in facilitating youth, most with no sailing background, to use tall ship sailing to achieve important life goals with the Duke of Ed program which my sister and I introduced to the Toronto Brigantine in 2012.

Sailing in all of its forms is who I am.

**STRATEGIC SKILLS**

I would bring to the Board the same instinctive strategic skills that have allowed me to win against adults of all ages on the racecourse by observing the entire racecourse and outsmarting my competitors. Even Sail Canada will concede that I never give up.

In 2012 I participated heavily in the successful grass roots push-back to World Sailings decision to replace windsurfing with kiting for Rio. I have been awarded a full academic scholarship from Queens in Kingston based on demonstrating high grades and leadership. In 2015 before taking a year off for my Rio effort, I achieved Academic all star/Deans honour roll 4.0 GPA

**BOARD EXPERIENCE**

For the last 2 years I have sat on the board of Windsurfing Canada.

I co-fill the position of Duke of Ed facilitator for the Toronto Brigantine.

Change the World volunteer committee – Government of Ontario

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Currently in my 21<sup>st</sup> year, I am just beginning to accumulate professional experience. In 2009 I served as a parliamentary page at Queens Park under premier Dalton McGuinty. I have spent the last 6 years of my life either teaching others the love of sailing or being a professional sailor for the Canadian Sailing team including fund raising and campaign management.

I am currently studying Kinesiology at Queen`s University with plans for a MBA in the future.

## **OTHER**

It concerns me that almost all of the activities both on and off the water at our local clubs involve both men and women, however, the Boards of most clubs and sailing associations rarely reflect this to the extent they should. I would like to step up and help be part of the solution to this imbalance if given the chance.

## **WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE SAIL CANADA BOARD**

Although currently committed to an Olympic campaign, my passion for all forms of sailing knows no bounds and it is my desire to grow the sport of sailing in all of its diverse paths, particularly for my generation, that fuels this application to serve with Sail Canada.

Average age at our clubs is creeping upwards. Sailing clubs have more powerboats than ever. I am eager to add my youthful perspective to help attract the next generation of sailors to the lifestyle of sailing.

## **REFERENCE**

It is my privilege to have known Olivia Mew since her toddler days. She has continued to be a positive force in her activities and in her various associations.

With youth and energy on her side, she has the ability to channel new ideas and present a perspective that represents the future. Olivia has demonstrated commitment and talent to achieve the highest levels of excellence in her chosen discipline.

I personally believe that in order to forward our sport in sailing, we need fresh new perspectives gained from worldly experiences. Olivia can offer this and it would bring a progressive balance to the board of SAIL CANADA.

It would be a huge benefit your organization to have Olivia Mew as a board member.

Patricia Whetung

Past Commodore, Queen City Yacht Club  
Skipper, First all women crewed boat in the Lake Ontario 300  
Ontario Women's Keelboat Champion  
Founding Board Member of Friends of Petroglyphs Park  
Former Member of the Ontario Government Task Force on Tourism.