

CANDIDATE STATEMENT



BYRON G. HOLLAND, MBA, ICD.D

President and Chief Executive Officer

The Canadian Internet Registration Authority

As President and CEO of the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) (2008-present), I am honoured to ask for your vote for ICANN Board Seat 12. I am grateful to Rosalía Morales Acosta, CEO of NIC Costa Rica, for her kind nomination. I would also like to thank Sean Copeland, technical liaison at NIC.VI, and Pierre Bonis, CEO of Afnic, for seconding my nomination.

While CIRA is best known for managing the .CA TLD on behalf of Canadians, we also lead a wide range of services and programs that help make the global internet stronger, safer, and more resilient. This includes our anycast services, which process an average of 60 billion queries per day over one-third of TLDs globally, as well as our cutting-edge registry platform and leading cybersecurity services. Using a portion of the revenue that we generate, Net Good by CIRA supports communities, projects, and policies that make the internet better here at home in Canada.

I am a strong supporter of multistakeholderism and believe in the fundamental mission of ICANN. ICANN requires a Board of Directors that represents its various communities and possesses the professional skills required to ensure strong strategic and fiscal oversight. Below, I highlight the top three reasons I would complement the existing skills on the ICANN Board of Directors and help support the next evolution of the organization. Further, given my long track record within the ccNSO, my contributions to the ICANN Board will reflect all that I have learned from this remarkable community.

1. Extensive Senior Corporate Leadership and Board Experience

I have a proven track record of working with a wide range of stakeholders to achieve strategic outcomes and ensure competent governance and financial oversight. My experience includes serving as Chair (2013-2017) and Vice-Chair (2009-2013) of ICANN's Country Codes Name Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council, and as the inaugural Chair of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) overseeing the IANA functions within ICANN. I was also the inaugural Chair of the Strategic and Operating Plan Working Group as well as the Chair of the Finance Working Group. Additionally, I have served on the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries (CENTR) Board since 2022, the Toronto Internet Exchange (TorIX) Board since 2018 (current Vice-Chair), and the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) Nomination Committee (2019-2022). I also hold an Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D) certification, enriching my approach to corporate governance.

In my current role at CIRA, I report to a not-for-profit, member-elected Board of Directors, giving me a rich understanding of the issues, responsibilities and complexities that multistakeholder Boards are expected to address. This experience will enable me to constructively contribute to advance ICANN's mission and governance.

2. Deep Engagement in ICANN and Multistakeholder Governance

As most in the ccTLD community know, I have been deeply engaged in, and a strong and vocal supporter of multistakeholderism. Further, I have strongly advocated on behalf of ccTLDs and the ccNSO across a range of issues including the IANA transition, ICANN's strategy and budget, and ccNSO funding to name a few. I am keenly aware of the challenges and opportunities for a multistakeholder organization like ICANN. During my time in leadership roles within the ccNSO, as Council Chair and multiple Working Group Chair roles, I worked both collaboratively and constructively with ICANN as well as challenged and critiqued the organization as necessary.

My extensive experience with multistakeholderism includes advocacy and leadership in key United Nations dialogues such as the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20. CIRA is a founding member of A Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism (TCCM), a coalition of 22 technical operators from around the globe working together towards these aims. My background equips me to both advise and challenge ICANN through an increasingly challenging and uncertain geopolitical and internet policy landscape.

3. Champion of Community Engagement Initiatives

I have long championed and led community engagement initiatives to foster policy dialogue and a trusted global internet. Under my leadership, CIRA's Net Good Grants program has invested \$13 million in hundreds of community-led internet initiatives across Canada, driving positive socioeconomic outcomes and empowering underserved communities. Since 2019, CIRA has also served as the main funder and Secretariat for the Canadian Internet Governance Forum (CIGF), promoting multistakeholder engagement and dialogue on key internet policy issues facing the country. These experiences would contribute to my perspective as an ICANN Board Director and support ICANN in fulfilling its mission to ensure a stable, secure, and unified global internet driven by the multistakeholder community.

Given my background in the multistakeholder community and DNS industry, and my experience leading and championing multistakeholderism domestically and globally, I am confident I would provide effective oversight of ICANN's operations and bring a strong professional ethic and business acumen to its operations. If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing my valuable understanding of governance and skills to support ICANN as a high-functioning non-profit Board and help take the organization to the next level.

Thank you for your consideration,

