

Ian A. Whytock

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

[✉ ian@tidalventurepartners.com](mailto:ian@tidalventurepartners.com) | [🔗 linkedin.com/in/ianwhytock](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ianwhytock)

Executive Summary

Strategic leader and investor with 10+ years at the intersection of venture capital, digital innovation, public governance, and national resilience. As Managing Partner of Tidal Venture Partners, I deploy mission-driven capital into transformative Canadian technologies—aligning closely with CIRA’s mandate to steward the .CA domain as a key public resource and champion Canada’s sovereign digital future.

Leadership

Tidal Venture Partners – Managing Partner & Co-Founder

2021 – Present | Halifax, NS

Lead and co-founded a purpose-driven early-stage VC platform focused on responsible innovation and strategic national interest.

Fund I: Atlantic Technology Fund

- Secured over 50 private Canadian limited partners, including prominent family offices and institutional investors.
- Pre-seed/seed-stage investments in Atlantic Canada, independent of government funding. We have catalyzed \$17 Million + in co-investment capital, with an 8x capitalization rate into our companies.

Fund II: Sovereign Technologies Fund (Launching)

- National seed-stage fund focused on technologies that underpin Canada’s resilience and defensive capabilities—cybersecurity, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and digital governance.
- Aimed at building sovereign digital capacity and reducing reliance on external tech ecosystems.

Barrington Consulting Group – Manager

2018–2021

Led strategy and innovation engagements for early-stage companies and mission-driven organizations. Focus areas included go-to-market planning, value proposition design, and product development.

- Advised a Canadian healthcare analytics company on the successful spinout of a new venture focused on population health mapping.
- Partnered with the Government of Colombia during the Venezuelan border crisis to design and launch a mobile vaccination record platform for displaced populations.

Board & Governance Experience

University of King's College – Board of Governors | Canada's oldest chartered university.

Board Member (5-year term) | 2020 – 2025 |

- **Executive Committee** (2020–2024): Orchestrated quarterly Board agendas and maintained liaisons with the President's Office.

- **Finance, Audit & Risk Committee** (2022–Present): Directed budgeting, audits, and institutional risk oversight. Prepared the annual budget for board approval.

- **Presidential Search Committee**: Search and contract negotiations for the current President.

- **VP (Academic) Search Committee**: Aligned academic leadership strategy with institutional priorities.

Symbodi Labs – Board Director | 2023–Present

Wellnify.AI / Pressto / Huumans / Floqer – Board Observer | 2021–Present

Provide counsel on governance, fundraising, and ethical internet innovation.

Innovation & Ecosystem Engagement

Wavecrest Strategies – Senior Advisor | 2024–Present

Provide guidance in capital strategy, SR&ED optimization, and investor readiness for founders.

Dalhousie Emera ideaHUB – Consultant in Residence | 2020–2021

Mentored emerging student-led startups and supported commercialization strategies.

Policy, Risk & Data Expertise

Confidion – Director / Research Analyst | 2015–2018 | Halifax, NS

Built open-source intelligence platforms to inform risk and policy decisions. Clients included the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the government of Canada.

Asoko Insight – Executive Director, Canada | 2016–2018

Spearheaded Canadian market entry for an African data platform, enhancing digital transparency in frontier and emerging markets.

NATO Association of Canada – Junior Research Fellow | 2014 | Toronto, ON

Published key policy insights on global economics, trade, and digital regulation.

Education

MA, International Studies – Stellenbosch University

BA (Hons, Cum laude), International Studies – Stellenbosch University

BA, Classics & Social Sciences – University of King’s College / Dalhousie University

Media & Coverage

- Featured by the National Post: Halifax investors buck Canadian VC norms, forgo government money for new fund:

<https://nationalpost.com/the-logic/halifax-investors-buck-canadian-vc-norms-forgo-government-money-for-new-fund>

- Guest on The Hard Part with Evan McCann podcast (Spotify), discussing seed-stage strategy and ecosystem-building:

<https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/the-hard-part/episodes/ian-Whytock-from-Tidal-Venture-Partners-e2cbvfb>