



BUILDING TOMORROW

Annual Report 2023-2024

Table of Contents

Message from CEO & Chair	3
Who We Are	4
The Board by the Numbers	6
CONVENE	8
The Business Council of Toronto	10
Annual Dinner- Dare to Lead	12
CONNECT	15
Membership	16
World Trade Centre Toronto	18
Unparalleled Events	24
CHAMPION	25
Advocating for Business	26
Members Drive Our Agenda	28
Thank You to Our Sponsors	35
Leadership	36
Board of Directors	36
Thank You to Our Speakers	37

Message from CEO & Chair

2023 marked the beginning of a new economic cycle – for the Toronto Region Board of Trade, for our members, and for the Toronto region.

The largescale disruptions of the past few years have radically changed the operating landscape for businesses here at home and globally: sticky inflation, higher-for-longer interest rates, labour shortages, the rapid advance of game-changing technologies such as generative AI, and of course deeply troubling and disordered geopolitical conflict. More than ever, businesses today need flexibility, resilience, and risk-taking ambition to seize tomorrow's opportunities.

As the business community navigates this turbulence, the Board has been at the forefront of the conversation about our lagging productivity, which has finally become a headline issue for the country, and for the Toronto region—Canada's economic engine. The OECD predicted that Canada will be dead last among our peers in terms of GDP per capita growth, and our response has been unequivocal: dead last is dead wrong.

As a result, 2023 marked the start of a new leg of our organization's journey. We embarked on an action-oriented agenda, first and foremost with the launch of the Business Council of Toronto—bringing leaders of leaders together to demonstrate that an urgently needed turnaround in growing productive capacity and competitiveness is achievable if we choose to set a shared north star. It's a platform for our region's top CEOs to lean in and make a major contribution to our competitiveness and productivity through high-impact, action-oriented advocacy and projects.

Businesses deserve a seat at the table, and the Board has been instrumental in creating opportunities for business leaders and government to collaborate to develop a stronger environment for business to succeed. One of the standout examples this year is our highly publicized Congestion Taskforce, a table

of experts committed to developing solutions to our ongoing congestion crisis.

Alongside our members, the Board also continued its advocacy on our region's key issues. This year the provincial government adopted our long-standing position on fare integration, while the impact of our "Missing Middle" report, which laid the foundation for greater density and the legalization of fourplexes in Toronto, helped to make the region a more livable place.

Since 1845, the Board has remained true to its vision of building a vibrant and prosperous city for people and businesses. This is only possible through the unwavering support of our members, partners, and sponsors. Thank you.

It is time to move from talk to action. As we come to grips with the end of an extended period of relative stability, we will continue to ramp up our policy work, programs, and demonstration projects to drive enhanced productivity and competitiveness for our members and our region.

In the face of a brave new world, our work has taken on a new shape, but we remain true to our course.



A black ink signature of Giles Gherson, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.

Giles Gherson
President & CEO



A black ink signature of Yung Wu, featuring a stylized 'Y' and 'W' with a long horizontal stroke.

Yung Wu
Chair

Who We Are

For 179 years, the Toronto Region Board of Trade has been a catalyst for the region's future and the unflagging voice for the business community. As one of the largest and most influential chambers of commerce in North America, we pursue policy change to drive the competitiveness of the Toronto region, facilitate market opportunities, support business scale-up and trade through our World Trade Centre-Toronto programs, and create new partnerships and connections to help our members succeed – domestically and internationally.



WHO WE ARE



Transportation Symposium: *Are We There Yet?*

WHAT WE DO

Our Vision

To make Toronto one of the most competitive and sought-after business regions in the world.

Our Mission

To be a catalyst for a vibrant, globally competitive Toronto region business community.



Life Sciences Symposium: *Can Toronto Be the Next Boston.*

"The Board provides a collective voice and helps advocate for regionally important issues that are critical to the long-term success of the communities in which we operate."

- Sean Menkes, Vice President, Office/Retail for Menkes Developments

HOW WE ADD VALUE:

Convene

We unite sharp minds, creative thinkers, and influential leaders across industries to tackle the region's biggest challenges, crafting daring solutions that propel our economic progress.

Connect

We foster growth by linking people and ideas, enhancing regional collaboration, identifying opportunities, and forging partnerships through shared challenges.

Champion

We champion actionable solutions to real business issues, collaborating with all levels of government to craft policies that foster regional growth, productivity and competitiveness.

The Board by the Numbers



Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria,
Ontario's Minister of Transportation

"Being a member of the Board helps keep me on the pulse of commerce and industry in Toronto. As a member, the opportunity to network with other business leaders can lead to collaborative partnerships, market insights, and strategic alliances."

- Gavin Whiteley, Chief Marketing Officer,
Great Canadian Entertainment

Connect

11,500+
Members

7%
Corporate member growth

108
Events

15,600+
Twitter followers

8,360+
Attendees

21,900+
LinkedIn followers

364,000+
Website visitors



5,500+
Young Professionals
Network participants

207
TAP graduates

17
GDP graduates



18
MAP delegates

240
Executive Certificates
participants

Convene

4

Policy committees

89

Committee members



Champion

40

Statements, releases & position papers

2

Countries visited through trade missions

OUTREACH

6k+

Media citations

1.15M+

Social media impressions



"The Board is an invaluable ally in championing and advocating for the public policies that will support the growth and future prosperity of our community."

- Hersi Hujaleh, Head of Canadian Policy, Instacart





Shakil
Hussein
Director of Traffic
and Planning,
407 ETR

Laura Winkler
Head of Public
Policy and
Communications,
Canada, Uber

Di Felice
AVP, Government
and Community
Relations, CAA

Director of Transit,
City of Mississauga

CONVENE

By bringing leaders from across industries together, we expand the possible and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

Throughout the year the Toronto Region Board of Trade brought our members together to tackle the region’s most pressing issues – complex challenges that no single sector can tackle alone. From deep-dive discussions at our flagship symposium events to curated roundtable conversations with government, our members engaged to bring forward their solutions to help build a brighter future for our businesses, residents and our economy.

This year, the Board took steps to move beyond our legacy of impactful advocacy to urgent action, convening two new cross-industry initiatives. Together with our partners, we launched the [Business Council of Toronto](#) and the [Congestion Task Force](#), platforms for businesses to lean in to address our region’s most challenging problems: our stagnating productivity and debilitating congestion.

“The Board continues to be a strong convener of businesses, bringing together the right people to address some of the city’s biggest challenges. We are proud to be a member and to sit on the Congestion Task Force to help get our city moving.”

- Laura Miller, Head of Public Policy and Communications, Uber Canada

Toronto Congestion Task Force

The challenges posed by our region’s congestion crisis impact the movement of people, movement of goods and economic opportunities, costing us more than \$11 billion annually in lost productivity. To address this critical issue, the Board has created a [Congestion Task Force](#) comprised of senior business leaders to identify and champion practical, high-impact solutions to get our region’s economy unstuck.





Elio Luongo, CEO and Senior Partner, KPMG and Chair of BCT



Mary Ann Wenzler, Vice-President, GTA West, BDC; Yung Wu, Chair, Toronto Region Board of Trade



The Business Council of Toronto (BCT)

Successfully building up our region for tomorrow is intrinsically linked to one of the biggest economic challenges facing Canada: our growing productivity gap. While the business community and government leaders at all levels took notice, the Board decided to take action by standing up a new productivity-focused, CEO-led initiative: the Business Council of Toronto (BCT). Throughout 2023, the Board recruited top-tier CEOs aimed at bolstering economic vitality in our region and closing our productivity gap to enhance our regional prosperity for generations to come.

In March 2024, we formally launched the BCT at an inaugural dinner for BCT members—the “leaders of leaders” from throughout the region. Comprised of an Executive Table and three issue-focused Partnership Councils, the BCT will take action to stand up high-impact demonstration projects and targeted advocacy initiatives providing data-driven and evidence-based recommendations to unlock our economic and productive potential.

“We want to ensure the Toronto region – an economic powerhouse within Canada – is a thriving and competitive place to do business for decades to come. By working together, we can help our community face the challenges ahead and build up our economy so future generations can call this region home.”

- Blake Hutcheson, President & CEO, OMERS and Founding Member of BCT

Future of Manufacturing Symposium

We held our first manufacturing symposium, which explored the region's manufacturing industry, opportunities in technology adoption, green manufacturing, precision manufacturing, and IP management. The event featured a discussion with Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario on manufacturing investment attraction and global competitiveness.

Amber Batool, Executive Director, Investment Banking, CIBC Capital Markets; John Laughlin, CTO, NGen; Joris Myny, Senior Vice-President, Digital Industries, Siemens Canada Limited; and Hallie Siegel, Co-Chair and Founder, Canadian Robotics Council



Kate Meyrick, Director, Urbis

Building a World Class Waterfront

Senior politicians, business leaders and city-builders came together to explore options to unlock the potential of Toronto's waterfront. Experts discussed how waterfront transformation projects can work harmoniously to create a vibrant and dynamic economic district, and barriers currently standing in the way. Ontario's Premier, the Hon. Doug Ford, and Minister of Infrastructure the Hon. Kinga Surma discussed waterfront revitalization. Experts including Dr. Richard Florida, Joe Berridge, and Jennifer Keesmaat explored the investments, collaboration, and bold decisions required to maximize the opportunities presented by our waterfront. The topics discussed set the foundation for our [Ripple Effect: Unlocking Toronto's Waterfront Potential](#) report.



Carl Lovas, Chairman and CEO, Odgers Berndtson Canada & Brad Beveridge, President, Odgers Berndtson Canada



Janet Bannister, Founder & Managing Partner, Staircase Ventures, Carol Wilding, President & CEO, CPA Ontario



Michael McCain, Executive Chairman of Maple Leaf Foods

Annual Dinner – Dare to Lead

The Board hosted our *134th Annual Dinner—Dare to Lead*, presented by Odgers Berndtson. This milestone event convened more than 1,000 leaders and change makers from across the region to celebrate our successes and envision a brighter tomorrow. The evening kicked off with a surprise performance by the Toronto cast of *Jersey Boys*, infusing the room with energy that set the perfect tone.

In his opening address, the Board’s new President and CEO, Giles Gherson shared his vision for Toronto’s business community:

“We are at a pivotal moment to amplify our competitive edge and foster unprecedented productivity. The year 2024 presents us with a unique opportunity to lead, to lean in, and to mold our region into the powerhouse we envision.”



Giles Gherson, President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade



The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier, Government of Ontario



Claudette McGowan, CEO, Protexxa



Christian Weedbrook, Founder, Xanadu



Yung Wu, Chair, Toronto Region Board of Trade



Jersey Boys performing at the Annual Dinner

Guests were treated to a special address by the Hon. **Doug Ford**, Premier of Ontario and a series of inspiring Toronto Talks from three of our region's most inspiring leaders, including:

Claudette McGowan, who is at the vanguard of the cybersecurity wave at Protexxa, and has worked tirelessly for a more diverse and inclusive tech ecosystem.

Christian Weedbrook, who founded tech unicorn Xanadu, a Toronto-based global leader in quantum computing—the next tech frontier.

Michael McCain, who transformed Maple Leaf Foods Inc. into the world's first major carbon neutral food company and shared profound insights on shared value creation.

We also awarded our Toronto Region Builder Award to **Janet Bannister**, the founder of kijiji.ca and Staircase Ventures—whose inspirational contributions to entrepreneurship are leaving indelible marks on our region's tech sector.

This evening was made possible through the generous support of our presenting partner, Odgers Berndtson—and our fantastic partners CPA Ontario, Fengate Asset Management, LiUNA, Destination Toronto, Uber, RBC, Air Canada, Hydro One, Los Cabos Tourism Board, Alstom, Billy Bishop Airport, CN Rail, Dean Davidson, Dream, Fairmont Royal York, George Brown College, hfrtgf, Instacart, The Jim Pattison Group, KPMG, LetkoBrosseau, Medicom, Oliver + Bonacini, Power Corporation of Canada, Relevantz, Richter, TD Bank Group, University of Toronto and Xero.

Can Toronto Be the Next Boston? Life Sciences Symposium

The Board's Life Sciences Symposium, *Can Toronto be the Next Boston?* brought together industry experts to dive deep into the burgeoning life science sector in our region. The Board identified the life sciences sector as a critical driver of long-term economic success and a strategic area of focus. Guest speakers shared insights and forward-thinking strategies to embrace our region's strengths and overcome our primary roadblock on attracting capital. Kenneth L. Custer, President and General Manager of Lilly Canada shared insights on the strengths, weaknesses, and nuances of the local life sciences ecosystem.



Pre-Budget Consultation with the Hon. Anita Anand

The Board welcomed President of the Treasury Board, the Hon. Anita Anand, for a roundtable discussion on a range of cross-sectoral issues with members of the Board's four policy committees ahead of the 2024 federal budget. Minister Anand discussed the government's efforts to build a stronger, more equitable future, with much needed investments in affordable housing and childcare, and discussion of the new legislation on pharmacare – with the blending of social and economic policy as the key to our progress.



CONNECT

By forging relationships and bridging sectors, the Board's member-driven business community lays the groundwork for building tomorrow.



Eric Huang, Founder & CEO, Advanced Analytics Research Lab, Michelle Gentner, Co-Owner, Unboxed Market, Guy Cormier, President & CEO, Desjardins

The Toronto Region Board of Trade connects our 11,500 members to opportunities that advance their businesses and cultivate fresh partnerships. Through our 100+ events, Young Professionals Network and World Trade Centre Toronto programs, the Board serves as the foundation for the Toronto region's business community to expand their network and contribute to shared economic growth.

Membership

2023 was the year our members operated back at full stride, aggressively pursuing collaboration and expansion. The opportunity to make new connections was found across the Board's industry, networking and business development events. While digital interactions continue to reshape the way we communicate, members consistently tell us that there is no substitute for an in-person conversation.

In addition to our 23 curated and member-led workshops we hosted two *Cocktails & Connections* member networking events in the summer and fall, each attended by 400+ guests. Our Young Professionals Network event *All in for the Future* in September discussed employment and entrepreneurship trends for young Canadians and offered networking opportunities with leadership across a variety of sectors. We also launched the *Meet Our Members* webpages on bot.com featuring spotlights, workshops, marketplace, and content from members.



“The Toronto Region Board of Trade gives us opportunities to connect with influential business leaders that are changing the future of the city.”

-Laura Delemere, Partner, BLG

" We find value in being a member of the Board because of their keen ability to facilitate interactions between key players in industry"

- Jeff Parnell, President, Power Workers' Union



MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

12%

year-over-year (YoY) growth in corporate membership accounts

85%

member retention rate

74%+

satisfaction from corporate members

1,600+

attendees for membership events

Young Professionals Network

Our Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a thriving community of over 5,500 energetic and enthusiastic professionals under 40, spanning diverse industries and roles in the Toronto region. To support their career growth, we offer an array of skills development, executive advice, and networking support across a wide range of events, programs, and resources. In the last year YPN membership grew 9%, and YPN members were offered a host of benefits including access to the World Trade Centre Toronto's Executive Certificate program free of charge.



Javier Acevedo, RBC Olympian - Marketing & Citizenship, Greater Toronto Region, RBC



Marek Karwowski (Government of Ontario), Natasha Gagnon (Ontario Aerospace Council), Mary Halloran (Government of Canada), Adam Barratt, Canada's Consul General in Seattle, United States, Noor Harbi (World Trade Centre Toronto) and Phil Arthurs (Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research) at the 2024 Aerospace & Defense Supplier Summit (A&DSS) in Seattle, Washington.

World Trade Centre Toronto

The World Trade Centre Toronto (WTCT) is the trade services and scale-up arm of the Toronto Region Board of Trade. WTCT offers comprehensive programs and expertise, helping Canadian businesses accelerate their growth and trade while building capacity, experience and partnerships to empower companies to reach their full potential. Initiatives like the Growth Development Program (GDP), Trade Accelerator Program (TAP), Market Activation Program (MAP), and Executive Certificates provide essential tools and connections for successful growth strategies. WTCT works with partners to upskill businesses and bridge the competitiveness gap for Canadian SMEs.

WTCT launched two new initiatives, the Global Growth Series and program support for the Government of Canada's Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative (ARRI).

Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative

The World Trade Centre Toronto launched a one-year partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) and offered 10 uniquely tailored programs for companies in the aerospace sector. These programs helped 89 business leaders in the aerospace sector pursue new export opportunities and create more sustainable operations.

A MAP trade mission to Seattle was also organized for 16 companies from Southern Ontario in partnership with: Ontario Aerospace Council (OAC), The Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) and Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research (DAIR)

Global Growth Series

The World Trade Centre Toronto, in collaboration with Communitech and MaRS Discovery District, developed an event series designed to help Canadian businesses navigate through the critical challenges facing exporters today. The 4 events covered Latin America, USA, Europe, and Indo-Pacific and received tremendous positive feedback from participants.

Trade Accelerator Program (TAP)

The Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) has been pivotal in assisting Canadian SMEs in overcoming export hurdles and expanding globally. With more than 2,500 entrepreneurs supported in seven years, TAP boasts a 91% satisfaction rate, contributing significantly to the economy by generating revenue, job opportunities, and efficiency gains.

“TAP provided a well-rounded program that covered all the necessary facets of export, and as a result, we were able to come away with a written export plan that had been reviewed by experts. We also made meaningful connections during the program that helped us secure a listing of a premium grocery chain in the UAE and enter the US market with confidence.”

- Jessica Praskey, President, Black River Juice

KEY MILESTONES

2,543

TAP graduates from 10 provinces and territories across Canada since 2016

80+

countries to which TAP graduates are now exporting to

91%

overall satisfaction

245

cohorts organized nationally since 2016

8.5

jobs created or maintained per company

62%

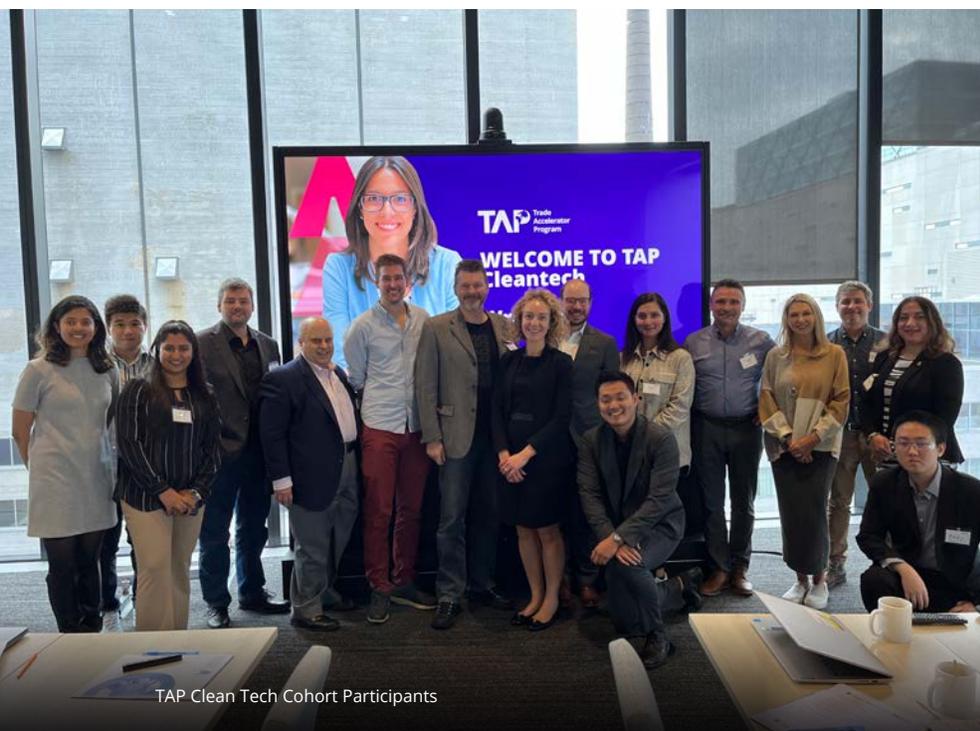
growth in revenues two years after participating in the program

73%

of TAP grads export, 42% start after TAP completion

64%

TAP graduates owned or led by an under-represented group



TAP Clean Tech Cohort Participants



GDP workshop with
Aerospace Cohort Participants

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

6
cohorts organized
since 2022

49
companies have
participated in
the program

45%
companies were owned
or led by an under-
represented group

40%
companies are exporting

MAIN COMPANY

SECTORS OVERALL:

Manufacturing,
Aerospace and
Food & Beverage.

Growth Development Program

The Growth Development Program engages in peer-group discussions, workshops and real-world case studies to broaden perspective, challenge preconceptions and expand knowledge for business participants. The program has organized five cohorts and empowered 49 Ontario-based companies, with 45% of them being owned or led by under-represented groups. This year we also offered an Aerospace-specific cohort and based on this cohort's success, we continued to refine the program, launching a new version that includes a peer network component and is tailored to companies in the 5M+ revenue bracket.

“GDP has been an amazing experience and has allowed us to gain REAL experiences from fellow peers who are in the same or similar business, and who have solved, or continue to solve, the same problems we are facing.”

- Paul Chana, P. Eng, MBA, President, Avion Technologies Inc.

Executive Certificates

The World Trade Centre Toronto's Executive Certificates program offers one-day courses on crucial areas such as international sales and marketing, operational efficiency, talent management and recruitment, e-commerce growth strategies, and ESG best practices, providing in-depth training and mentorship to help businesses grow. The program has doubled in offering since inception in November 2022, with 9 sessions organized in its first year, and 18 organized this past year due to demand. Participation numbers have tripled: with 240 program participants in the last year alone. WTC-T plans to extend its offering over the next year, expanding topic selection to include sessions on artificial intelligence, modern leadership and skills-based hiring.

“Lots of great takeaways. The information presented on each topic was applicable and robust. I especially enjoyed the group interaction, sharing of experiences, and what others did to overcome the hurdles we all encounter as SME’s.”

- Shohreh Sabaghpour, Founder & CEO, Lumesmart Inc.

KEY MILESTONES

27
sessions organized
since 2022

320
companies have
participated in
the program since
2022

97%
score of average
satisfaction



Executive Certificates:
E-Commerce Participants

Market Activation Program (MAP)

The Market Activation Program (MAP) helps Ontario businesses expand their reach into international markets. With trade missions to major markets in Europe, Asia and North America, MAP has enabled companies to develop their international selling strategies and build relationships with new customers and partners. In the past year we assembled 2 trade missions to Guadalajara, Mexico and Seattle, USA.

“Being part of a trade mission is a tremendous opportunity. It gives us the ability to present our products and have conversation which catalyze commercialization. The MAP missions open doors that you don’t even know existed.”

-Francois Gand, Founder & CEO, NURO



Team Ontario, 2024 Aerospace & Defense Supplier Summit (A&DSS) in Seattle, Washington.

KEY MILESTONES

30

countries visited through MAP trade missions since 2017

418

companies have participated in the program since 2017

2

MAP trade missions this year

55%

growth in exports within one year of participating in the program

93%

Overall satisfaction from companies that participated



Jon Worren, Vice President, World Trade Centre Toronto (left) meeting Her Excellency, Zuzana Čaputová President of the Slovak Republic

Hosting the President of Slovak Republic

In February, the Board was delighted to host the President of the Slovak Republic, Her Excellency Zuzana Čaputová, and a delegation of Slovak businesses to foster stronger trade relationships between Slovakia and the Toronto region. With both economies witnessing robust growth in pivotal sectors like automotive, nuclear energy, AI, clean tech, and biotech, the potential for mutually beneficial trade partnerships is at an all-time high.

Thank You to Our WTC-T Sponsors



Ministry of
Agriculture, Food &
Rural Affairs

Funded by:
Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario

Financé par :
Agence fédérale de
développement économique
pour le Sud de l'Ontario



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Innovation, Science and
Economic Development Canada

Innovation, Sciences et
Développement économique Canada

OPERATING PARTNERS

Angel Investors Ontario

Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce (CBCC)

Canadian Food Exporters Association (CFEA)

City of Toronto

Communitech

Custom Manufacturing & Engineering (CME)

Downsview Aerospace Innovation & Research (DAIR)

Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Ottawa

European Union Chamber of Commerce in Canada
(EUCCAN)

Global Affairs Canada

Government of Manitoba

Government of Ontario

Groupe Export Agroalimentaire du Québec

Markham Board of Trade

Markham Economic Development

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
(OMAFRA)

Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job
Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)

Northern Centre for Advanced Technology (NORCAT)

Ontario Aerospace Council (OAC)

Ontario Investment and Trade Centre

PARO Centre

Province of Alberta

Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency
(SARIO)

Vaughan Chamber of Commerce

Vaughan Economic Development

Unparalleled Events



Tiff Macklem, Governor, Bank of Canada,
Discussion on Canadian Economic Outlook



The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance, *Post-Budget Discussion*



Greg Ebel, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Enbridge, *Living Up to Our Superpower*

"The Toronto Region Board of Trade allows us to connect with a diverse and talented group of leaders from across the region— hearing their stories, listening to their challenges, and learning about their needs"

- Amir Abd El Halim, Regional Executive for Ontario and Atlantic Canada, WSP



Gordon Lau, Manager, Renewable Natural Gas Business Development, Enbridge,
The Future of Climate & Energy



Mike Rencheck, President & CEO, Bruce Power
in conversation with the Hon. Lisa Raitt, Vice-Chair of Global Investment Banking at CIBC



Alexis von Hoesbroech, CEO, WestJet,
Charting the Future



CHAMPION

By advocating for policies that propel business growth across the Toronto region, the Board ensures that the voices of our members are helping to shape a vibrant, more competitive future.

Advocating for Business

To compete in the global economy for business investment, talent attraction and retention, and growth, the Toronto Region Board of Trade is focused on working with members to build policy solutions and recommendations that enable a stronger and investment-ready business environment.

This past year, we strongly advocated for the issues that matter to our members, from housing and land use to transit, talent, energy and innovation adoption.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

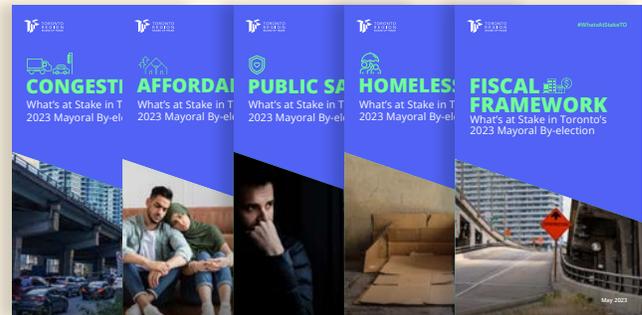
In 2023 the Board released its report *Erasing the Invisible Lines*, which continued our advocacy on fare integration across our public transit network. This year, government took action and instituted the One Fare Program, which allows riders to pay one fare when connecting to and from our region’s many transit networks including the TTC and GO Transit.

What’s at Stake, Toronto? Spring 2023

Toronto’s mayoral by-election was undoubtedly a pivotal moment for the economy of our city. In response the Board launched its *What’s at Stake* campaign to bring the city’s top economic and livability issues to the forefront. Our award-winning ‘What’s at Stake?’ mayoral by-election campaign, which ran in the spring of 2023, dove deep into the city’s most pressing challenges: an unsustainable fiscal framework, affordability, homelessness, public safety, and chronic congestion. The campaign featured five election issues guides, four opinion articles published with TVO, a fiscal framework event, and a live broadcasted mayoral debate with the top six polling candidates. In June 2024, the campaign was awarded the 2024 Canadian Public Relations Society government relations/ public affairs campaign of the year.



Four op-eds on TVO Election Issues Guides + Five videos



CAMPAIGN METRICS:

Social impressions:

114,000

Media hits:

34

Engagements:

10,270

Media reach

157 M



Mayoral Debate on May 25, 2023. Steve Paikin, moderator and Host, *TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, mayoral candidates: Olivia Chow, Ana Bailão, Josh Matlow, Mitzie Hunter, Mark Saunders, Brad Bradford.

Mayoral Debate

On May 25, the Board in partnership with TVO hosted the top six polling candidates: Olivia Chow, Ana Bailão, Josh Matlow, Mitzie Hunter, Mark Saunders and Brad Bradford for a mayoral debate. Steve Paikin Host *The Agenda with Steve Paikin* asked the tough questions around the Board's *What's at Stake?* campaign themes: congestion, housing, public safety, and the City's dire fiscal situation. The debate was attended by more than five hundred people and covered by TVO, CBC, CTV, CP24, Global, Toronto Star, and the Globe and Mail.

Annual Policy Priority-Setting Session

On September 22, the Board held its annual *Policy Priority-Setting Session* which gathered the Toronto Region Board of Trade's policy committees to lay the groundwork for policy development and advocacy efforts over the next 12 months. The session also serves as an opportunity for members to share their insights on pressing regional issues. Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow kicked off the day with a frank assessment of the city's core issues – productivity, transit, and housing, and outlined potential solutions to the City's budget shortfall. We also heard Scotiabank's Senior VP and Chief Economist, Jean François Perrault share economic perspectives in a live recording of *The Herle Burly Podcast*.



Her Worship Mayor Olivia Chow, City of Toronto

“As an expert on strategy and leadership for mid-size businesses, I joined the Board to share my knowledge and contribute to policy on issues impacting our clients and hindering productivity.”

-Ali Grovue, Vice President, Ignite Management

Members Drive Our Agenda

Forming the backbone of our ambitious policy efforts are the Board's policy committees. These are comprised of Influencer member businesses leaders across multiple sectors volunteering their expertise to advance high-impact enablers.

“We chose to be a member of The Toronto Region Board of Trade due to the position it puts us in to network with business leaders across the GTA as well as to contribute to policy positions the Board takes with regards to issues affecting the area. On a more personal note, The Toronto Region Board of Trade staff are always very friendly and professional, and the events they put on are always top-notch.”

-Christopher Dixon,
Senior Advisor, Mitacs

Transportation, Infrastructure & Land Use Committee

Driving improvements to the region's physical infrastructure and livability to ensure the region is world class.

Needs Improvement: Getting to World-class Transit – Transit Report Cards

The Board released its [Toronto Region Transit Report Cards](#) to quantitatively and qualitatively understand the strengths and weaknesses of our region's transit networks, understanding that transit is a major area of concern for residents and businesses. By scoring factors such as frequent service coverage, reliability, and base service coverage, the report cards examine the region on a city-by-city basis highlighting the various challenges, and opportunities of each municipality's transit system. These report cards are serving as a framework for discussion and advocacy, demonstrating with data where additional investment is needed and where opportunities await.





Karla Avis-Birch, Chief Planning Officer at Metrolinx

Are We There Yet? Transportation Symposium

The Board hosted its ninth annual Transportation Symposium where top leaders from the transportation and infrastructure industry gathered to gain insights into the challenges, investment imperatives, policy adaptations, and groundbreaking opportunities necessary to keep our vibrant region moving ahead. Among the symposium's highlights was a conversation between Angela Clayton, President, Project Delivery, Infrastructure Ontario and Andy Byford, Senior Vice President for High-Speed Rail at Amtrak, about his experience leading major transit projects worldwide and best practices for developing complex infrastructure projects.



Tackling Toronto's Congestion Crisis

Congestion is a serious barrier to our regional competitiveness, hindering the ability of workers to get to their jobs, customers to get to businesses, and adding to the cost of transporting goods. On June 23, Josh Colle, Partner, EY; Teresa Di Felice, Assistant Vice President, Government and Community Relations, CAA South Central Ontario; and Denzil Minnan-Wong, former Deputy Mayor of Toronto debated the root causes of congestion in Toronto, moderated by Colin D'Mello, Queens Park Bureau Chief, Global News. The event also featured a "solutions showcase" that highlighted possible traffic management solutions for the region, and set the foundation for our [Congestion Task Force](#).

Race for Space

Major employers across the region flagged that upcoming policy changes could threaten our region's already scarce employment lands, putting millions of jobs at risk. In our [Race for Space](#) report we put forward five recommendations to government on how to balance a sufficient inventory of employment lands while also supporting housing goals. The report's findings were covered in the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, CBC News, 640 Radio. Underscoring the importance of this issue, the Board's recommendations were referenced by multiple parties during the Ontario Legislature's Question Period.



Talent Ecosystem Committee

Helping facilitate a diverse, competitive, inclusive and resilient talent ecosystem in the region.



Helen Kontozopoulos, Co-founder and Chief Tech Evangelist, ODAIA Intelligence, Damir Kostic, Partner and Practice Area Leader for Talent Technologies Consulting, IBM Canada, Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, University of Toronto, Jordan Sheridan, Global Sales Lead – Modern Work, Microsoft Canada



Giles Gherson, President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade, The Hon. David Piccini, Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

The Talent Transformation Symposium

The Board convened the region's top employers and workforce development experts to discuss the future of hybrid work, the impact of emerging technologies, like generative AI, on transforming job roles, and empowering workers with advanced productivity tools. The Board was joined by the Hon. David Piccini, Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, who discussed initiatives the province was taking to encourage jobs in the region.

Workforce Leading Practice Guides

On November 21st, the Board released **six leading practice guides** diving into common workforce challenges and serving as a repository of best practices, case studies, and resources for employers. The Board consulted extensively with members of the Talent Ecosystem committee and convened senior business leaders for a series of roundtables to share lessons-learned, guidance, and resources on critical workforce development challenges and opportunities. These guides are for businesses of all sizes on the following six topics:

- Supporting Employee Soft Skill Development
- Finding the Right Entry-Level Workers
- Tapping into the Immigrant Talent Pool
- Reducing Integration Barriers For Immigrant Workers
- Increasing Work-Integrated Learning Opportunities
- Expanding Mental Health Supports For Younger Workers

“The Council of Ontario Universities’ partnership with the Board has helped bring together business and postsecondary education leaders to address the changing needs of the job market, our communities, and the ground-breaking technology and innovation that is critical to fueling economic growth.”

- Steve Orsini, President & CEO, Council of Ontario Universities



“The Toronto Region Board of Trade offers a wide range of essential benefits to our business and our employees with access to networking opportunities with fellow entrepreneurs, industry experts, policy makers, robust employee insurance programs and educational programming to upskill and keep current with need-to-know economic trends.”

-James Hashmi, CEO & Founder, Vinyl Technologies Corp

Innovation Economy Committee

Catalyzing the region’s innovation and technology ecosystem to ensure we are a top destination for tech talent and investment.



The Unleashing Innovation: Industry Showcase

On October 30, we held an industry showcase which featured 25 urban mobility & manufacturing technology companies, 25 innovators, 30 speakers, and more than 350 attendees. Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade, the Hon. Vic Fedeli highlighted the importance of the Toronto Region Board of Trade's place in the innovation ecosystem and the potential the province has to be a world-class jurisdiction. The insights shared by our remarkable speakers and innovators heralded a new era in the way we perceive the future of mobility and technology. From AI-driven warehouses and cybersecurity to self-driving vehicles, these enlightening discussions offered a glimpse into a future brimming with endless possibilities. Each exhibit highlighted cutting-edge technologies, ranging from revolutionary strides in robotics, delivery drones, and 3D printing to the transformative impact of smart city solutions and shared mobility.



“WES chose to become a member of the Toronto Region Board of Trade to partner with the business community to address Canada's critical labour shortage through leveraging the skills and experiences of immigrants who can drive regional growth. We must help employers to grow and improve competitiveness by accessing the talent they need, when they need it.”

-David (Daiwei) Yan, Manager, Employer Solutions at World Education Services

Energy & Climate Committee

Empowering the climate economy and maintaining a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy system in the Toronto region.

Electrifying Ontario's Economy Symposium

We convened our region's energy leaders to discuss Electrifying Ontario's Economy. Experts discussed strategic investments in electric vehicle production, battery gigafactories, nuclear energy and creating the conditions for a powerful resurgence in Ontario's manufacturing sector. The Hon. Todd Smith, Ontario's Minister of Energy delivered a vision of Ontario's nuclear energy sector.



The Hon. Todd Smith,
Ontario's Minister
of Energy



Julianne den Decker, Senior Vice-President, Candu Energy; David Harris, President & CEO, Kinectrics; Tony Morris, President, Niagara Energy Products; Narinder Bains, Vice-President of Sales - Nuclear, ATS Automation Systems; John MacQuarrie, President, Commercial Operations, BWX Technologies

The Future of Climate & Energy Symposium

The Future of Climate and Energy Symposium convened top players in the energy and climate space to discuss how to build a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future to enhance competitiveness and attract business investment in our region. In a riveting fireside chat, the Hon. Catherine McKenna, Chair, UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities, shared the steps needed to build a future powered by clean energy.



Hon. Catherine McKenna, Chair, UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities, Giles Gherson, President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade



Rymal Smith, Owner/Partner & CTO, Ch2nge Energy; Crystal Rasa, Fulfillment Sourcing Manager, IKEA Canada; Joey Cycles, RNG Specialist, Enbridge; Carolyn Kim, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, UPS Canada

EV Breakfast Series

Our three-part EV Breakfast series kicked off in May 2023 with one strategic objective: to explore conditions for enabling widespread adoption of EVs. We delved into the critical requirements to enable the adoption of electric vehicles (EV) - investments and infrastructure. We discussed global strategies for EV adoption, the need for robust charging networks, and highlighted the collaborative effort needed to drive EV adoption.

“When assisting the Toronto Region Board of Trade with its real estate, I realized the value it brings to the city through its mission to support Toronto businesses. I want to support that mission by connecting the Toronto Region Board of Trade to CBRE's resources, networks and data so they can better understand the city's commercial real estate players and enact meaningful change.”

-Cathy Bongard, Associate VP, CBRE

Thank You to Our Sponsors

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



PARTNERS



OPERATING PARTNERS

Accenture	CN Rail	Goodmans LLP	PortsToronto
Bell	Dean Davidson	Instacart	PowerCorp
Burgundy Asset Management	Don Mills Retirement	Kinectrics	PwC
BWX Technologies	Residence	Letko Brosseau	RBC Capital Markets
CAE Aviation	Dream	Lighthouse Labs	Relevantz
Canadian Bankers Association	Edelman Global Advisory	Medicom	Richter
Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2)	Edelman Smithfield	Menkes	Seneca Polytechnic
Centennial College	EQ Bank	Moneris	Sussex-Strategy
CIBC Capital Markets	Fairmont Royal York	Ontario Power Generation	TD Securities
	George Brown College	Pattison	XERO

Leadership



Giles Gherson

President and Chief Executive Officer



Brenda Gardiner

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer



Roselle Martino

Executive Vice President, Policy, Advocacy & Stakeholder Engagement



Jennifer van der Valk

Senior Vice President, Communications and Marketing



Sharon Fernandes

Senior Vice President, People, Culture & CEO Office

Board of Directors



Yung Wu
CHAIR



Kevin Teslyk
CO-VICE CHAIR



Lisa Kimmel
CO-VICE CHAIR



Alaina Tennison
TREASURER

National Managing Partner, People & Partnership, PwC Canada



Angela Bhutani

Vice President, Investment Counsellor, Burgundy Asset Management Ltd.



Raymond Chun

Group Head, Canadian Personal Banking (CPB), TD Bank Group



Kris Depencier

Regional President, Greater Toronto Region, RBC



Deborah Flint

President and CEO, Greater Toronto Airports Authority



Faisal Kazi

President & CEO, Siemens Canada Limited



Sasha Krstic

President, Mastercard Canada



Elio Luongo, FCPA, FCA

Chief Executive Officer and Senior Partner, KPMG LLP



Mazyar Mortazavi

President & CEO, TAS



Godyne Sibay

Senior Strategic Advisor, McCarthy Tétrault LLP



Pamela Snively

Chief Data and Trust Officer, TELUS Communications, Inc.



Humza Teherany

Chief Technology and Digital Officer, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd.



Annesley Wallace

Executive Vice President, Strategy, Corporate Development and Energy Transition Planning, TC Energy



Blaine Woodcock

National Strategy, Analytics & M&A Portfolio Leader (Canada) and Managing Partner, Strategy, Deloitte

Thank You to Our Speakers

Javier Acevedo
RBC Olympian - Marketing & Citizenship,
Greater Toronto Region, RBC

Kanwal Ahmed
Storyteller, Conversations with Kanwal

Nirajit Ajai
Business Development Manager, RDP
Associates

Evelyn Akselrod
VP, Strategic Development, Community
and Corporate Relations, The Career
Foundation

Dr. Christine Allen
Chair, Commercialization and
Partnerships Committee, Acceleration
Consortium, University of Toronto

Subhi Alsayed
Founder & CEO, Kulture Rebellion

Derrick An
Director, Operations and Industry
Partnerships, Hospitality Training Action
Centre 75

Yegor Anchyshkin
Co-Founder & CEO, Instock

Patrick Antoine
Senior Managing Director, Globant

Fred Antunes
Senior Vice-President, Capture
Management for Major Projects,
AtkinsRéalis

Slava Apel
CEO, Start Up Visa Services

Alec Arbutina
Accounting Analyst, Communitech

Dave Archer
Founder, The Export Coach

David Arkell
President & CEO, 360 Energy

Paul Armstrong
Chief Operating Officer, Mohawk College

Flavio Arssani
Co-Founder & CEO, Siemens

Frank Attaie
General Manager, Technology, IBM
Canada

Rob Auld
CRO, Readymode

Karla Avis-Birch
Chief Planning Officer, Metrolinx

Maddie Axelrod
Partner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Ana Bailão
Head of Affordable Housing & Public
Affairs, Dream

Narinder Bains
VP of Sales, ATS Industrial Automation Inc.

Susan Baka
President, Bay Communications &
Marketing Inc.

Sarah Baker
VP Strategic Growth, IQ Partners Inc.

Jason Ball
Vice-President and General Manager,
Burloak Technologies

Janet Bannister
Founder & Managing Partner, Staircase
Ventures

Pedro Barata
Executive Director, Future Skills Centre

Jenny Barkan
Leadership Coach & Facilitator, ACC

Andrea Barrack
Senior VP, Corporate Citizenship & ESG,
RBC

Evandro Barros
CEO, Data H

Randall Bartlett
Senior Director of Canadian Economics,
Desjardins Group

Chris Bass
Co-Founder and CEO, InventoRR MD

Abu Batasi
Director, Enterprise Sales, Lighthouse
Labs

Amber Batool
Executive Director, Investment Banking,
CIBC Capital Markets

Chris Beregeron
VP of Strategy + Inclusive Creativity,
Cossette

Joe Berridge
Partner, Urban Strategies

Peter Berridge
Senior Trade Finance Specialist, RBC

Brad Beveridge
President, Odgers Berndtson Canada

Shekhar Bhardwaj
Research Manager, CBRE

Guru Bhatia
Economic and Business Advisor, Ontario
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Affair

Shahira Bhimani
Co-Chair, National Digital Health Task
Force, Medtech

Lalit Bhushan
Business Advisor, BDC

Rob Blackstein
Partner, BLG

Marc Boucher
Senior Vice-President, Major Projects,
Engineering Services, AtkinsRéalis

Brad Bourne
President & CEO, FTG Corporation

Brad Bradford
Councillor, Ward 19 Beaches – East York,
City of Toronto & Mayoral Candidate,

Marah Braye
CEO, Harbourfront Centre

Adam Bridgman
Director of Training, Carpenters' Regional
Council

James Brodie
General Manager - Canada, Johnson &
Johnson MedTech

Joe Brown
VP, Building Technology and
Decarbonization Lead, KingSett Capital

Chris Bryce
Founding Partner & CEO, Dotfusion

Amy Bugg
Senior Director, Client Care, CBRE

Nicole Butcher
COO, Ontario Power Generation

David Butters
President & CEO, The Association of
Power Producers of Ontario

Rick Byers
MPP & Parliamentary Assistant
to the President of the Treasury Board,
Huron-Bruce

Andy Byford
Senior VP, HSR Development Programs,
Amtrak

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Nazar Bylen
Senior Trade Finance Specialist, RBC

Uzzo Calderaro
Director, Canadian Life Science & Technology Park Inc.

Kristle Calisto-Tavares
Program Advisor/Team Lead,
TakingITGlobal

Dr. Maura Campbell
President and CEO, OBIO

Geoff Cape
CEO, Assembly Corp.

Dave Caputo
CEO, Trusscore

Meghan Carbonne
Commercial Account Manager, RBC

Vincent Caron
Director, Policy and Ontario Government
Relations, Canadian Manufacturers &
Exporters

George Carras
Founder and CEO, R-LABS

Michael Carroll
Co-Founder, Customers Broker and
Consultant, CANUSA Logistics

Vendia Carvery
Founder, Afrobeats Snacks

Tony Cascio
Executive Advisor, Cascio Group Inc.

Shawn Casemore
Executive Sales Ambassador, Canadian
Professional Sales Association

Jason W.D. Cassidy
CEO, ShinyDocs Corporation

James Castle
President & Co-Founder, CSR5 Global Inc

Daniel Cervan-Gil
Associate Director, Employer Initiatives,
World Education Services (WES)

Subo Chatterjee
Partner, Utilities, Mining, Manufacturing
and Transportation Sector Capabilities
Leader, PwC Canada

Tehmina Chaudhry
Founder & President, Canada Startup
Association

Melissa Chee
President and CEO, ventureLAB

Stephanie Chen
Senior HR Advisor, Anchor HR

Christine Chiu
Director, Sustainable Finance, RBC

Darren Chiu
Co-Founder, Captivate

Prithwiraj Choudhury
Lumry Family Associate Professor,
Harvard Business School

Her Worship Olivia Chow
Mayor, City of Toronto

Angela Clayton
President, Project Delivery, Infrastructure
Ontario

Matteo Colella
ESG Analyst, WSP

Josh Colle
Senior VP (former City Councilor and TTC
Chair), EY

Chris Collucci
President & CEO, Markham Board of
Trade

Monica Contreras
Lead Architect, Architectural Program
Delivery, Bell Real Estate

Brian Cookson
President, RDP Associates Inc.

Hunter Cookson
Director, Business Development Canada,
RDP Associates

Pablo Corell
Senior Manager Sustainability Services,
Deloitte

Guy Cormier
President & CEO, Desjardins Group

Jennifer Corriero
Co-Founder and Executive Director,
TakingITGlobal

Ehren Cory
CEO, Canada Infrastructure Bank

Carter Cousineau
VP, Data and Model Governance,
Thomson Reuters

Peter Cowan
Principal Consultant, IP Strategy,
Northworks IP

Bob Cowie
VP, Consulting, GHY International

Roy W. Craik
Executive Partner, Retirement
Compensation Funding Inc.

Joe Cressy
Senior Vice-President, External Relations,
Communications and Real Estate
Development, George Brown College

Tom Cumming
Deputy Director, TCS

Kenneth Custer
President and General Manager, Lilly
Canada

Joey Cycles
Specialist, Business Development,
Enbridge Gas Inc.

Rola Dagher
Global Channel Chief, Dell Technologies

David Dal Bello
Managing Director, Global Co-Head Power
Utilities & Infrastructure, RBC Capital
Markets

Mark Daley
Chief AI Officer and Professor, Western
University

Wouter Danckaert
Founder & Senior Business Development
Consultant, WODAN & Co

Trevor Dauphinee
CEO, Invest Ontario

Neel Dayal
Head of Innovation and Partnerships,
Rogers

Silvia de Souza
Partner, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman
LLP

Mitch Debora
Co-Founder & CEO, Mosaic Manufacturing

Negin Dehghanian
Project Manager Associate, Dayforce

Pat Delzell
Executive Director, Corporate Affairs,
Bruce Power

Julianne den Decker
Senior VP, Candu Energy

Teresa Di Felice
AVP, Government and Community
Relations, CAA

Laura Dierker
Senior Advisor, SynerLeap

Sebastian Distefano
Regional Managing Partner, Greater
Toronto Area, KPMG Canada

Colin D'Mello
Queens Park Bureau Chief, Global News
Toronto

Barbara Doherty
Legal Counsel, Gardiner Roberts LLP

Roshan Drahaman
Trade Finance Specialist, RBC

Yulia Druzhnikova
Co-Founder, Director of Global Expansion,
FIXAR

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Selwin Dsouza
Commercial Account Manager, RBC

Bryan Duarte
Managing Partner & Co-Founder,
BlackTech Capital

Viona Duncan
Partner, Corporate Finance, M & A, Tech
Sector, Gowling WLG

Greg Ebel
President and CEO, Enbridge

Mark Elliot
Founding Partner, Venture Accelerator
Partners Inc.

Rick Endrulat
President & Co-Founder, Virtual Causeway

Noelle Engle-Hardy
Vice Office Managing Partner, Cozen
O'Conner LLP

Michael Fan
CFO, Eatable Inc.

The Hon. Vic Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development,
Job Creation and Trade, Government of
Ontario

Luigi Ferrara
Chair & CEO, Brookfield Sustainability
Institute, George Brown College

Jason Fields
President and CEO, Life Sciences Ontario

Sabrina Fiorellino
CEO, Fero International

Jason Fitzsimmons
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy

Richard Florida
Professor of Economic Analysis and
Policy, Rotman School of Management;
Co-founder of CityLab; and Founder of
the Creative Class Group

Willy Fogang
Regional Director, EDC

Padraic Foley
Director, Strategy & Partnerships,
Acceleration Consortium

The Hon. Doug Ford
Premier, Government of Ontario

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland
Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance, Government of
Canada

Joanne Freeman
Country Director Canada, UK's
Department for Business and Trade

Sergio Frias
President & CEO, CX Hub Smart
Consulting Inc.

Joseph Fung
CEO, Uvaro

Daniel Galeano
Director of Customer Experience, Sera4

Cathy Gallagher-Louisy
Professor, Centennial College

Lesley Gallinger
President and CEO, Independent
Electricity System Operator (IESO)

Hilda Gan
President and Chief People Officer,
People Bright Consulting Inc.

Vignesh Ganapathy
VP of Public Policy, Server Robotics

Dan Gardner
Author, Speaker, Consultant, Connaught
Street

Isabelle Garon
Executive Vice-President, Marketing,
Communications, Cooperation and
President's Office, Desjardins Group

Kelly Gauthier
President, Rally Assets

Marcus Gee
Columnist, The Globe and Mail

Michelle Genttner
Co-Founder, Unboxed Market

Jason George
VP of Sales and Business Development,
Auvik

Meric Gertler
President, University of Toronto

Moien Giashi
Principal, GreenSky Ventures

Ravinder Gill
Managing Director and Head, BFS
Sustainable Finance, RBC

Mitch Gillin
VP, Asset Management, Hullmark

Malini Giridhar
VP Business Development & Regulatory,
Enbridge Gas

Micha Goddard
Managing Director, Strategy & Client
Services, Snow Collective

Avi Goldfarb
Professor, University of Toronto

Mark Goldfield
Trade Commissioner, Agriculture
Technology, Global Affairs Canada

Thassiane Gossler
Associate Lawyer, Oziel Law

Karen Greve Young
CEO, Futurpreneur Canada

Nora Griffiths
Co-Founder, SideKick Consulting

Jeremy Grushcow
Co-Founder and CEO, Juniper Genomics

Leandro Guimaraes
Senior Commercial Account Manager,
BDC

Vic Gupta
CEO, CreateTO

Shadi Hagag
Founder and CEO, Trans-Plan

Phillip Haid
CEO, Public Inc

David Harris
President and CEO, Kinectrics Inc.

Brad Havixbeck
Deputy Director, Global Affairs Canada

Peter Hawkins
Managing Director, MELLOHAWK
Logistics Inc.

Jennifer He
Founder & Managing Partner, VOYO
Business Design & Management

Bryan Healey
Director, CCS Business Development,
Imperial Oil

Toby Heaps
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, Corporate
Knights

Youssef Helwa
CEO and Co-Founder, FluidAI

Rob Henderson
President and CEO, BioTalent Canada

David Herle
Host, The Curse of Politics and The Herle
Burly podcasts

Erika Hild
Channel Partner Manager, Cubeler
Business Hub

Lloyd Hipel
Project Director, Enviro-Stewards

Jake Hirsch-Allen
North America Workforce Development
and Higher Ed System Lead, LinkedIn

Audrey Hlembizky
Founder & CEO, TeamsynerG Global
Consulting

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Charles Ho
Professor of Sustainability Accounting,
Schulich School of Business

Hesam Houryaband
Director, Select Florida

Mark Howe
Director of Business Development &
Client Relations, Thompson Dorfman
Sweatman LLP

Eric Huang
Founder and CEO, Advanced Analytics
and Research Lab

Mitzie Hunter
Toronto Mayoral Candidate

Roy Hussein
President, SRA Staffing

Shakir Hussein
Director of Traffic and Planning, 407 ETR

Martin Imbleau
CEO, VIA HFR – VIA TGF Inc.

Richard Inglis
Executive Vice-President, Ontario Line,
Metrolinx

Ozan Isinak
President, Keiretsu Forum Canada

Randall J Howard
Co-Founder, MKS

Stephanie J. Chen
Senior HR Advisor, Anchor HR Services

Richard J. Crofts
CFO, TAS

Tony Jabbour
Program Manager, Jumpstart Refugee
Talent

Russell Jackson
Global Transit Director, AECOM

Anzhar Janjua
Head of Communitech Outposts,
Communitech

Alban Jerome
General Partner, Tacenda Capital

Nishat Jessa
SVP, Finance Technology and Operations,
Oxford Properties Group

Suha Jethalal
President, Bullfrog Power

Kendra Johnson
Founder, The Venned Group

Alison Joutsi
Principal, ESG Global Advisors Inc.

Richard Joy
Executive Director, ULI Toronto

Chandru K.
Founder & CEO, Dyooti

Kosta Kalogiros
Partner, McCarthy Tétrault

Kevin Kamal
Director of Institutional Client Relations,
World Education Services (WES)

Mohammad Kamla
Founder, Amavi Digital Inc

Steven Karpenko
Team Lead, Advanced Technologies
Branch, Ontario Ministry of Economic
Development, Job Creation and Trade

Alexander Katznelson
Partner, Cozen O'Conner LLP

Prabnoor Kaur
Trade Commissioner, Global Affairs
Canada

Vivian Kaye
Content Creator, Vivian Kaye Consulting

Faisal Kazi
President and CEO, Siemens Canada

Jennifer Keesmaat
CEO, The Keesmaat Group

Christopher Kelly
Owner, Sandler Training

Michael Keroulle
President and CEO Americas, Alstom

Arthur Kesisyán
VP of Life Sciences, Canada, AtkinsRéalis

Brad Kewalrami
Founder, Culture Mindful

Sarah Keyes
CEO, ESG Global Advisors

Amna Khan
Trade Commissioner, Global Affairs
Canada

Freedra Khan
Associate Director, Global and
Experiential Learning, University of
Toronto - Rotman School of Management

Carolyn Kim
VP, Corporate Affairs, UPS Canada

Peter King
VP, Indro Robotics

Michael King
Market Sales Director, Experis

Preet Kiran Sandhu
Manager, Employer and Stakeholder
Relations, Toronto Region Immigrant
Employment Council (TRIEC)

Mike Kirkup
CTO, EnPowered

William Kitay
Secretary, American Chamber of
Commerce in Canada

Karen Klink
Director, Channel Partners & Founder
Success (Outposts), Communitech

Robert Koblinsky
Regional Storage Director, GridBeyond

Tim Kocur
Executive Director, Waterfront BIA

Helen Kontozopoulos
Co-founder and Chief Tech Evangelist,
ODAIA Intelligence

Damir Kostic
Partner and Practice Area Leader for
Talent Technologies Consulting, IBM
Canada

Hetal Kotecha
Partner, Toronto Transaction Tax Leader
& International Tax Services, BDO Canada

Garret Kowalyshyn
CRO, Sampler

Praveen Kumar
CEO, 2iSolutions Inc. Algo8 Inc

Rohit Kumar Patel
AVP & Lead – Data Science and Quantum
Computing, Mphasis

Robert Kunihiro
National Head, The CFO Centre

Richard Kunst
President & CEO, Kunst Solutions Corp.

Ken Kyriacou
Partner, Tax, Ernst & Young LLP

Dan Lacey
Associate VP, CBRE

Chief Stacey Laforme
Chief of the Mississaugas of the New
Credit First Nation

Agnes Lan
VP, Sales, Change Connect

Eric Landry
Director of Sales, PolyAnalytik

Julia Langer
CEO, The Atmospheric Fund

Gordon Lau
Manager Renewable Natural Gas
Business Development, Enbridge

John Laughlin
Chief Technology Officer, NGen Canada

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Miryam Lazarte
CEO & Co-Founder, Global Startups

Eliane Leal da Silva
Corporate, M&A and Securities Lawyer,
Gardiner Roberts LLP

Jean Marc Leclerc
President and CEO, Honda Canada Inc.

Francois Legare
Senior Solution Engineer and Lead
Innovator, Bell

Jeff Lem
President, Portable Intelligence Inc.

Jeremy Lenk
President and CEO, Resource Group

Andrea Lettner
Managing Partner, Retirement
Compensation Funding Inc.

Daniel Lewis
Co-Founder, PEKOE.LIFE

Ge Li
Analyst, Carbon Strategy, Enbridge Gas

Jeffrey Liaw
General Manager, Martinrea Alfield

Justin Litchfield
Co-Founder, CSR5 Global Inc

Hugh Liu
Professor, Institute for Aerospace
Studies & Director, Centre for Aerial
Robotics Research and Education,
University of Toronto

Hazel Lord
Founder, Pearl Operational Design Inc.

Carl Lovas
Chairman & CEO, Odgers Berndtson
Canada

Jon Love
CEO, KingSett Capital

Kerri Lui
Partner, McCarthy Tétrault

Carol MacDonald
Co-Founder and President, Gotcare

Bill Macheras
Manager, Info Centre and Trade
Commissioner, Global Affairs Canada

Tiff Macklem
Governor, Bank of Canada

John MacQuarrie
President, Commercial Operations, BWX
Technologies, Inc.

Stacey Madge
President and Country Manager, VISA
Canada

Steve Magirias
CEO, Drone Delivery Canada

Ken Mah
Director of Strategic Partnerships &
Programs, Lynch Fluid Controls

Humera Malik
CEO, Canvass AI

Carole Malo
Principal, Stratford Ventures Inc.

Joseph Mancinelli
International Vice-President and Canadian
Director, LiUNA

Mengistu Mariam
VP, Managed Resourcing Program (MRP),
Randstad Technologies, Randstad Canada

Josh Matlow
Councillor, Ward 12 Toronto—St. Paul's,
City of Toronto & Mayoral Candidate,

Tamar Matossian
President, Enviro-Serve Chemicals &
Cleaners Ltd.

Arthur Matossian
Technical Manager, Enviro-Serve
Chemicals & Cleaners Ltd.

Kurtis McBride
CEO, Miovision

Susan McCahan
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs,
University of Toronto

Michael McCain
Executive Chairman, Maple Leaf Foods
Ltd

Shawn McCarthy
Senior Counsel, Sussex Strategy Group

Craig McClelland
Senior Analyst (Aerospace, AI, & Cyber
Resilience), Industrial Benefits, Federal
Economic Development Agency for
Southern Ontario

Sean McCormick
VP of Business Development, Moneris
Data Services, Moneris

Travis McCready
Head of Life Sciences, Americas Markets;
Chair, Global Life Sciences Advisory
Board, JLL

Patrick McEwin
Engineering Team Lead, North Bridge
Consultants

Daniel McGeown
Director, Transfer Pricing, BDO

Claudette McGowan
CEO, Protexxa

John McGraw
Founder & CEO, Hiyaku Coaching

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Chair, UN High-Level Expert Group on
the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of
Non-State Entities

Shauna McKenzie-Onita
Manager, Employment and Placement
Services, The Career Foundation

Martin McLaughlin
Partner, SR&ED, Incentives and Capital
Investments, EY Canada

Chris McLean
Senior Manager, Talent Development &
Transformation, Toyota Canada

Shannon McLuhan
Manager, Partnership Regional
Management, EDC

Sherry McNeil
President & CEO, Canadian Franchise
Association

Brenda McPhail
Acting Executive Director, Master of
Public Policy in Digital Society Program,
McMaster University

Brett McQueen
Director of Innovation, North America,
Linamar Corporation

Arnon Melo
President, MELLOHAWK Logistics Inc.

Kate Meyrick
Director, Urbis

Christy Michalak
Director, Advanced Manufacturing
Development Programs, NGen

Andrew Miller
Senior Leader, Urban Solutions, Hatch

Henry Miller
Partner & Chairman, Global Life Sciences
Practice, Odgers Berndtson

Laura Miller
Head of Public Policy and
Communications, Canada, Uber

Alyssa Milot
Founder, The Zen Strategy

Verne Milot
President, Growth Associates Canada

Denzil Minnan-Wong
Former Deputy Mayor of Toronto
and City Councillor, Don Valley East,
City of Toronto

Doug Minter
Management Consultant, Canadian Black
Chamber of Commerce

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Mustafa Mirza
Vice President, Rail & Transit, Ontario,
WSP Canada

Shilpa Mishra,
Managing Director, National Leader,
Capital Advisory , BDO

Bethany Moir
Director, Stakeholder Relations and
Strategic Projects, Toronto Global

Karen Moore
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic,
Network and Agency Policy, Ministry of
Energy, Government of Ontario

Paul Morassutti
Chairman, CBRE

Tony Morris
President, Niagara Energy Products

Jordan Mowbray
Regional Manager, Business Markets, RBC

Mohsin Mukhtar
Head of Finance and Administration,
Gutmann North America

Ishali Mulchandani
Managing Partner, IDM Professional
Corporation CPA

Drew Munro
Professional Board Director and Co
Founder, Principal, LEAD for Growth

John Murdoch
VP Platform, Canvass AI

Ainslie Murdock
Specialist Carbon Strategy, Enbridge Gas

Kate Murray
Director of Impact Strategy &
Measurement, TAS

Jayson Myers
CEO, Next Generation Manufacturing
Canada

Joris Myny
Senior Vice-President, Digital Industries,
Siemens Canada Limited

Paul Nagpal
COO, The CFO Centre Canada

Kareem Nakhla
Business Development Director,
GridBeyond

Parimal Nathwani
President and CEO, Toronto Innovation
Acceleration Partners

Derek Newton
Assistant Vice-President, Innovation,
Partnerships and Entrepreneurship,
University of Toronto

Tu Nguyen
Director of Environmental, Social and
Governance, RSM

Laura Niblett
Director, Human Resources, Lighthouse
Labs

Joe Ogilvie
Founding Principal, Archangel Ventures

Jeffrey Orridge
CEO, TVO

Cinthya Ortiz
Area Director for South America, MEDJCT

Steve Paikin
Host, TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin,
TVO

Alex Palmer
Managing Director, Industry X, Accenture

Marc Parent
President and Chief Executive Officer, CAE

Jeff Parnell
President, Power Workers Union

Vani Pasupathy
Managing Partner, Building Perspective

Joel Pearlman
Chief Investment Officer , Menkes
Development Ltd.

Marcel Pelletier
VP, Indigenous Relations, AECOM

Jean-Francois Perrault
SVP and Chief Economist, Scotiabank

Alastair Perry
Vice-President, Renewables, SNC-Lavalin

Avinash Persaud
VP, Hardware Catalyst Initiative,
VentureLab

Andrew Petrou
Associate VP, Strategic Initiatives &
External Relations, Centennial College

Rod Phillips
Former Minister of Finance,
The Government of Ontario

Steve Phillips
EVP, Emerging and Adjacent Business
Models, The Co-operators Group

Hon. David Piccini
Minister of Labour, Immigration,
Training and Skills Development,
Government of Ontario

Richard Pinnock
Chief Diversity Officer, EDC

Darrell Pinto
Director of Employment, Jumpstart
Refugee Talent

Maciej Podoski
Technical Solutions Architect - Smart
Cities and Transportation, Cisco

Stephen Poon
CTO, Korah

Gary Prevenost
President FranNet (Southern Ontario
and Eastern Canada) and Author of The
Unstoppable Franchisee,

Randy Purse
Senior Cybersecurity Advisor, Rogers
Cybersecure Catalyst

Adam Radwanski
Climate Change Columnist and Feature
Writer, The Globe and Mail

Raseeka Rahumathulla
Manager, Government and Regulatory
Affairs, Volkswagen Canada

The Hon. Lisa Raitt
Managing Director and Vice-Chair, Global
Investment Banking, CIBC Capital Markets

Chandra Ramadurai
CEO, Efficiency Capital

Bassel Ramli
Co-founder and Director, Economic
Mobility, Jumpstart Refugee Talent

Dëv Ramsumair
Executive Director/Executive Producer,
Global Change Initiative

Isaac Ransom
Head of Corporate Affairs, Neuron
Mobility Canada

Crystal Rasa
Customer Fulfilment Sourcing Manager,
IKEA Canada

Laurie Reid
Secretary-Treasurer, Society of United
Professionals

Mike Rencheck
President and CEO, Bruce Power

Leonard Rickard
CEO, Mississaugas of the Credit Business
Corporation

Nikhil Rodye
Director of Channel Accounts, Fund Easily

Ben Rogers
Dean, Applied Research and Innovation,
Seneca Polytechnic

Andre Rojas
Director, Applied AI Projects, Vector
Institute

Lyndon Rollit
Principal, The CFO Centre Canada

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Jackie Romans
Senior Trade Specialist, RBC

Darace Rose
Co-Founder & CEO, Oppos

Mary W. Rowe
President and CEO, Canadian Urban
Institute

Sajedah Rustom
CEO, AviaPro Consulting Inc

Tom Ryden
Executive Director, Mass Robotics

Sam Saad
VP Strategic Initiatives, Gatik

Montse Sanszole
Director, Strategic Partnerships,
Northeastern University

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation,
Government of Ontario

Andrew Sasso
Director, Energy Policy & Government
Relations, Toronto Hydro

Mark Saunders
Toronto Mayoral Candidate

Brad Saunders
CEO, Community Living Toronto

Vicki Saunders
Founder, Coralus

Shane Saunderson
Founder & Artificial Experience Designer,
Artificial Futures

Teena Sauve
Founder, Btree Inc.

Teresa Schoonings
Senior Director, Sustainability,
Bimbo Canada

James Scongack
Executive VP & Chief Development
Officer, Bruce Power

Stephen Scott
Senior Director, Canada Infrastructure
Bank (CIB)

RJ Steenstra
President and CEO, PortsToronto

Helen Seifu Wolde
Senior Program and Policy Advisor,
World Education Services (WES)

Laryssa Semegen
Commercial Account Manager, RBC

Paloma Senosiain
HR Advisor, Anchor HR Services

Michael Shafarenko
Associate - Corporate and Securities,
Cozen O'Connor LLP

Dinesh Sharma
Co-Chair, Punjabi Chamber of Commerce

Jordan Sheridan
Global Sales Lead – Modern Work,
Microsoft Canada

Godyne Sibay
Senior Strategic Advisor, Real Property
and Planning, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Hammad Siddiqui
Executive Director, Canada Startup
Association

Hallie Siegel
Co-Chair and Founder, Canadian Robotics
Council; Managing Director, Strategy and
Partnerships, Toronto Robotics Institute

Vicky Siemon
Commercial Account Manager, BDC

Aaron Silver
Manager, Climate Action Transportation
Initiatives, Toronto Hydro

Michael Simons
Chair, Centennial College

Abhitej Singh
Manager, Sales, Strategy Consulting, Alta
Consulting Canada

Rocky Singh
Principal, Third Rock Consulting

Amy Siu
Area Manager, Small Business – GTA
North, BDC

Christian Sivière
President, Solimpex Montréal & Ottawa

Adrian Skowron
Relationship Manager, EDC

The Hon. Todd Smith
Minister of Energy, Ontario Government

Michelle Smith
Treasury Solutions Specialist, RBC

Ry Smith
Owner/Partner, Change Energy Services
Inc.

Gord Smith
Managing Director, Alta Consulting
Canada

Dan Snow
Founder, Snow Collective

Scott Snowden
Partner, Flywheel Strategic Inc

Robert Sochaj
VP, Cyclone Mfg INC.

Cary Solomon
Managing Partner, Seeker Labs

Phillip Spring
Partner, MNP LLP

John Stackhouse
Senior Vice-President,
Office of the CEO, RBC

Wade Stayzer
Chief Operating Officer, Meridian

Debbie Stewart
VP, Innovation and Partnerships, CMHC

Rob Strickland
President, Fidelity Investments

Jason Sukram
Engagement Manager,
Quinn and Partners

Ray Sullivan
Executive Director, Canadian Housing
Renewal Association

The Hon. Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure,
Government of Ontario

Brendan Sweeney
CEO, Trillium Network for Advanced
Manufacturing

The Hon. Nina Tangri
Associate Minister of Small Business,
Ontario Government

Vince Tarantino
Senior Wealth Advisor,
Wellington-Altus Private Wealth

Ignacio Tartavull
Founder, Tiny Mile

Bruce Taylor
President, Enviro-Stewards Inc.

Kira Tchernikovskiy
Co-Founder & CMO, Customerization

Paul Teitelman
Partner, Assurance and Accounting, BDO

Kevin Teslyk
EVP & COO of Canadian Banking,
Scotiabank

Sylvie Tessier
Academic Projects Advisor,
George Brown College

Eddy Thésée
VP, Cybersecurity, Alstom

The Hon. Lisa Thompson
MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs, Huron-Bruce

Connor Tidd
Co-Founder and CEO, Just Vertical

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS

Rakesh Tiku
President & CEO, inField Solutions Inc.

Kate Tomen
VP, Business Development & Operations,
Angel Investors Ontario

Zeynep Ton
Professor of the Practice, Operations
Management , Massachusetts Institute of
Technology (MIT)

Garret Tone
Executive Director, Life Sciences,
Invest Ontario

Paul Trudel
VP of People, Ellis Don

Daniel Trunzo
VP, Merchant Portfolio Risk Management,
Moneris

Alexander Tsoulis
Senior Advisor - Business Development
& Advanced Technologies, MHI Canada
Aerospace Inc.

Jay Tulsani,
Senior Manager, Indirect Tax, BDO

Tibor Turi
National Lead of the Pan-Canadian
Artificial Intelligence Compute
Environment, CIFAR

Eric Turner
VP, Business Markets, Greater Toronto
Region, RBC

Brett Turner
Partner, QA Consultants

Aiteka Ukonga
Founder, Afrobeats Snacks

Joe Vaccaro
Co-Founder and President, RIOS

The Hon. Tony Valeri
President and CEO,
Ridge Strategy Group Inc.

Peter Van Dijk
Chief Sustainability Officer / Chair,
Innovation, Science and Policy Advisory
Board, Canada's Forest Trust Corporation

Rafael Vargas
Senior Export Advisor, Ministry of
Economic Development, Job Creation and
Trade, Government of Ontario

Athena Varmazis
SVP, Cards, RBC

Rambabu Vasupilli
CEO, NCPL Inc.

Uxia Vazquez
Project Manager, Salveo

Mani Venkat
CO-Founder, Dyooti

Mark Venton
Sales Director, Big Country Raw

Annette Verschuren
Chair & CEO, NRStor Inc

Berkeley Vincent
President, Janssen Inc.

Sharif Virani
Head of Growth, Real Life Robotics

Eric Visser
Director of Real Estate, Vancity
Community Investment Bank

Derek Vogt
CTO & Co-Founder, Mosaic Manufacturing

Janice Vogtle
Trade Commissioner and Head Office,
Global Affairs Canada

Alexis von Hoensbroech
CEO, The Westjet Group

Frank Voss
CEO, Toyota Motor Manufacturing
Canada

Peter Wallace
Senior Advisor, Boston Consulting Group

Julian Ware
Senior Director, Product Research,
Locus Robotics

Anushree Warrior
Associate, Sustainalytics

Steven Waslander
Director, TRAILab and Professor, Institute
for Aerospace Studies, University of
Toronto

Bryan Watson
Senior VP of Business Development,
Venbridge

Jaime Watt
Executive Chairman, Navigator Ltd.

Christian Weedbrook
Founder, Xanadu

Rami Wehbe
Co-Founder & CTO, Global DWS
Corporation

Andrew Weir
President & CEO, Destination Toronto

Molly Westbrook
EVP and Managing Director, CBRE

Eve Wiggins
Director of Transit, City of Mississauga

Ray Williams
President, Music Marketing

Junior Williams
Professor, Toronto School of
Management

Dr. Richard Williamson
Professor, Centennial College

Ben Wise
Co-Founder, Captivate

Jason Wong
Senior Director, Strategic Planning +
Growth, SideKick Consulting

Leslie Woo
CEO, CivicAction

Blaine Woodcock
National Strategy, Analytics & M&A
Portfolio Leader and Managing Partner,
Strategy , Deloitte

Yung Wu
CEO, MaRS Discovery District

Calvin Xiao
Relationship Manager, Mid-Market, EDC

Adrian Yip
Security Analyst, Oppos

Ryna Young
Partner and Head of DEI Advisory
Practice, Odgers Berndtson

Margaret Zanel
Co-Founder and Partner, Strategy and
Leadership, Wentworth Strategy Group

George Zegarac
President and CEO, Waterfront Toronto

**Titles correspond to when they spoke at Toronto Region Board of Trade*



The Toronto Region Board of Trade is one of the largest and most influential chambers of commerce in North America and is a catalyst for the region's economic growth agenda. Backed by more than 11,500 members, we pursue policy change to drive the growth and competitiveness of the Toronto region, and facilitate market opportunities with programs, partnerships and connections to help our members succeed – domestically and internationally.

Join us to make Toronto one of the most competitive and sought-after business regions in the world, visit bot.com and follow us at [@TorontoRBOT](https://twitter.com/TorontoRBOT).