



# 2025 AUSTRALIA-CANADA ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM PROGRAM

TRUSTED PARTNERS:  
NAVIGATING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Sydney, Australia  
February 16 – 18, 2025

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AUSTRALIA FOR THEIR FUNDING SUPPORT:



Australian Government

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PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**AUSTRALIA–CANADA ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM 2025**

I'm delighted you are meeting in Sydney for the 2025 Australia–Canada Economic Leadership Forum.

The AusCan Forum provides an invaluable platform to strengthen the enduring relationship between Australia and Canada. Bringing together senior leaders from the public and private sectors of both our countries, presents an opportunity to discuss the most pressing global challenges and identify new avenues to work together.

As we celebrate 130 years of trade and more than 85 years of diplomatic ties, the relationship between our countries continues to grow. We stand united in supporting rules and norms that uphold sovereignty and human rights. We continue to work together to address global challenges by driving climate action, building secure and stable supply chains and ensuring economic security and sustainable growth.

The theme of this year's Forum, "Trusted Partners: Navigating the Future Together" is timely. I'm pleased that Forum discussions will encompass key topics from geopolitical risks to economic uncertainty – areas where cooperation between our countries is all-important.

Through our Government's Future Made in Australia agenda, I see significant opportunities to deepen our economic partnership with Canada, promote sustainable growth and jobs in both our nations and support the global move towards net-zero.

As the world transitions to renewable energy, enhanced cooperation on critical minerals will be essential to achieving our shared goals. Australia recognises the need for increased investment in green energy sectors and appreciates Canada's substantial contributions to our economy.

Australia and Canada also share a commitment to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Economic empowerment plays a vital role in improving the lives of Indigenous Peoples and their communities, and we are dedicated to working together on this issue.

I congratulate the Forum for bringing our countries together and express my sincere thanks to all participants for your commitment to our partnership.

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Attendees of the 2025 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum:

It is with great honour that I send my best wishes as you gather in Sydney, Australia.

Canada is tremendously proud of our deep-rooted relationship and strong friendship with Australia, which is built on solid people-to-people ties, shared fundamental values, and robust economic and cultural ties. We continue to stand together on many fronts, from investment and fair and open trade, to defence, natural resources, technology, climate change, finance, and Indigenous economic inclusion. We look forward to close cooperation for continued growth on a plethora of opportunities in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The AUS-CAN forum also presents a tremendous opportunity to reinforce bilateral and regional economic cooperation. We stand to gain a lot from sharing our knowledge and networks for the betterment of our two countries, and I encourage all attendees to make the most of this event for our mutual interests.

I could not think of a better theme for this year's forum than "rusted Partners: Navigating the Future Together." We are facing a world and geo-political landscape that is increasingly divided, fractured, and complex. Now, more than ever, we need to stand closer with our partners, advance our mutual interests, and protect the rules-based international order.

I am also glad to see Climate Change and Indigenous Economic Inclusion included in this year's agenda. Future generations rely on us to act now and decisively to protect our planet, and Indigenous communities deserve to share in a future with hope, dignity, and prosperity in our countries' frameworks. I look forward to the ideas that will come from this forum on how we can do more on these and many other issues, together.

I know that the 2025 AUS-CAN Forum will lead to meaningful progress between our countries. I look forward to a productive gathering, with increased cooperation between Australia and Canada, for a brighter future for citizens on both sides of the Pacific.

With my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

2025 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum







# WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

## WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS AUSTRALIA-CANADA ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

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Welcome to the ninth Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum. The theme of this Forum is 'Trusted Partners: Navigating the Future Together.' The Forum will foster a high-level, frank exchange on issues and challenges of mutual interest to Australia and Canada, as partners and allies who share common historical roots and values.

In the face of rising geopolitical tensions and the rapid growth of new technologies, trusted relationships such as this one could not be more important. Together we are facing the risks and opportunities of the energy transition, AI and economic security — all areas which will require a great degree of trust and support if we are to engage as deeply as we must to navigate this future successfully.

The cornerstone of our trusted relationship is a set of shared values. This Forum is an opportunity to reinforce these common values and share what we have learned and how we have been challenged by the future forces bearing down on us. By coming together, we can develop practical steps for navigating the road ahead between our governments and businesses.

The agenda has been designed to facilitate such collaboration. We look forward to discussing a wide range of geopolitical risks and opportunities, including critical minerals and metals, AI and cybersecurity, and infrastructure. In keeping with our shared heritage, Indigenous economic inclusion will also be a key topic of discussion.

Previous Forums have been critical points in strengthening an already remarkably strong relationship between our nations. However, there is much more opportunity that awaits—and risks along the way—and we will fare better when facing them together. You, as participants in this Forum, are critical partners in further strengthening our ties. A stronger Australia and Canada will contribute to a stronger world economy.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support. It is deeply gratifying that the private and public sectors in both countries recognise the importance of the Forum and contribute to its ongoing success.



Bran Black  
Australian Co-Chair



Goldy Hyder  
Canadian Co-Chair



## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**2025 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum**

**Theme:** *Trusted Partners: Navigating the Future Together*

**Date:** February 16-18, 2025

**Location:** Sydney, Australia

### Sunday, February 16, 2025

**Four Seasons Hotel - Ballroom Lobby**

**3:00pm-5:30pm**      **Conference Registration**

**6:00pm-9:00pm**      **Welcome Reception**  
*Museum of Contemporary Art – Harbourside Room*  
**2025 AusCan Awards – Exceptional Leaders Under 40**

### Monday, February 17, 2025 – Day One

**Four Seasons Hotel**

**6:30am-7:45am**      **Registration & Buffet Breakfast**

**7:45am-9:00am**      **Opening Remarks**

- Land Acknowledgement and Welcome: **Yvonne Weldon**, Councillor, City of Sydney
- Welcome: **Goldy Hyder** (Canadian Co-Chair), AusCan Forum)  
**Bran Black** (Australian Co-Chair, AusCan Forum)
- Keynote: **Hon Anoulack Chanthivong**, Minister, NSW
- Message from **Rt Hon Justin Trudeau**, Prime Minister of Canada
- Scene-Setting Presentation:  
**Mark Barrenechea**, CEO, CTO, & Vice-Chair, OpenText

**9:00am-9:30am**      **Networking Break**

**9:30am-10:45am**      **Session 1: Geo-Political Risk to Economic Security**

**10:45am-12:00pm**      **Session 2: The Digital Economy: AI and Cyber Security**

**12:00pm-1:30pm**      **Lunch**

**1:30pm-2:00pm**      **Tourism Industry Fireside Chat**

**2:00pm-2:45pm**      **Trade Ministers' Fireside Chat**  
*Speakers: Hon Mary Ng & Senator the Hon Tim Ayres*

**2:45pm-3:00pm**      **Health Break**

**3:00pm-4:15pm**      **Session 3: Pathways to Lower Carbon Emissions**

**4:15pm-5:00pm**      **Depart to Government House**

**5:00pm-6:30pm**      **Reception at Government House**  
*Official Residence of the Governor of New South Wales*  
*Welcome remarks by Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC*

**6:30pm-6:45pm**      **Depart to Art Gallery of New South Wales**

**6:45pm-9:15pm**      **Dinner at Art Gallery of New South Wales hosted by Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, Hon Mary Ng**

*Guest Speakers: Hon Mary Ng & Senator the Hon Don Farrell*



## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Day Two**

### **Four Seasons Hotel**

<b>7:00am-8:15am</b>	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>
<b>8:15am-9:30am</b>	<b>Session 4: Building Smart and Sustainable Infrastructure</b>
<b>9:30am-10:45am</b>	<b>Session 5: National Defence and Security</b>
<b>10:45am-11:15am</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>
<b>11:15am-12:30pm</b>	<b>Session 6: Regulation's Role in Economic Policy Delivery</b>
<b>12:30pm-1:15pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:15pm-1:45pm</b>	<b>Fireside Chat: Elections Landscape - the Business Perspective</b>
<b>1:45pm-3:00pm</b>	<b>Session 7: Finding and Fostering Talent for Innovation</b>
<b>3:00pm-3:15pm</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
<b>3:15pm-4:30pm</b>	<b>New US Administration Fireside Chat</b>
<b>4:30pm-6:00pm</b>	<b>Refresh &amp; Depart to Reception and Dinner</b>
<b>6:00pm-7:00pm</b>	<b>Reception at Australian National Maritime Museum</b>
<b>7:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Closing Dinner at Australian National Maritime Museum Concluding Remarks</b>

**NB:** Forum discussions are subject to the Chatham House Rule unless elected officials are speaking. This guideline allows participants to share information obtained in Forum discussions without revealing the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker or that of any other participant.

This program was printed on 4 February 2025 and is subject to change.









# PROGRAM

2025 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum  
February 16 – 18, 2025, Sydney, Australia



## THEME: TRUSTED PARTNERS: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

### FEBRUARY 16, 2025 - OPENING

**3:00pm-5:30pm** **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
**Conference Registration**  
**6:00pm-9:00pm** **Welcome Reception**  
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART – HARBOURSIDE ROOM  
2025 AUSCAN AWARDS – EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS UNDER 40

### FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - DAY ONE SESSIONS

**6:30am-7:45am** **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
**Registration**  
**Buffet Breakfast**

**7:45am-9:00am** **Opening Remarks**  
Land Acknowledgement and Welcome to Sydney  
**Yvonne Weldon**, *Councillor, City of Sydney*  
Welcome to the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum:  
**Mark Romoff**, *Chair and CEO, AusCan Forum*  
**Goldy Hyder**, *Canadian Co-Chair, AusCan Forum*  
**Bran Black**, *Australian Co-Chair, AusCan Forum*  
Introduction of Guest Speaker: **Bran Black**, *Australian Co-Chair*  
Keynote:  
**Hon Anoulack Chanthivong**, *Minister, Government of NSW*  
Thank you: **Goldy Hyder**, *Canadian Co-Chair*  
Video Message: **Rt Hon Justin Trudeau**, *Prime Minister of Canada*  
Scene-Setting Presentation:  
**Mark Barrenechea**, *CEO, CTO & Vice Chair, OpenText*

**9:00am-9:30am** **NETWORKING BREAK**



# PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - DAY ONE SESSIONS CONTINUED

9:30am-10:45am

## **SESSION 1: GEO-POLITICAL RISK TO ECONOMIC SECURITY**

In today's global economy, successfully managing geo-political risks goes a long way to reinforcing economic security. As countries grapple with shifting alliances, trade and investment tensions, and geopolitical uncertainties, business leaders and policymakers face complex challenges. This panel brings together Canadian and Australian expertise to discuss both the challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific and in North America. This panel will discuss ways to defend supply and value chains against coercive and protectionist policies, the role of multilateralism, the rise of populism threatening democratic institutions, and authoritarianism pushing back against the international order.

Moderator:

**Hon John Manley, PC OC** *Chair of Jefferies, Canada and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada*

Panelists:

**Nina Davidson,**  
*Deputy Director General-Intelligence, Office of National Intelligence*

**Prof Rory Medcalf AM,**  
*Head, National Security College, Australian National University*

**Rob Stewart,**  
*Deputy Minister of International Trade, Global Affairs Canada*

**Todd Winterhalt,**  
*Senior Vice President, Export Development Canada (EDC)*

Questions, answers and discussion





FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - DAY ONE SESSIONS CONTINUED

**10:45am-12:00pm**

## **SESSION 2: THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: AI & CYBER SECURITY**

As our digital landscape rapidly evolves, the intersection between artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber security presents both unprecedented opportunities and daunting challenges. AI technologies are revolutionizing industries and daily life while simultaneously introducing new dimensions to cyber security threats and defenses. Join us for an insightful discussion as experts explore the symbiotic relationship between AI and cyber security, examining how AI offers dynamic opportunities to unleash productivity and yield national champions to generate domestic economic gains. This panel will touch on the ethical implications, economic considerations, regulatory frameworks, risks to media and the threats of misinformation, and innovative strategies necessary to navigate this dynamic frontier balancing opportunities and risks.

Moderator:

**Jeff Nankivell**, *President & CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada*

Panelists:

**Mark Barrenechea**, *CEO, CTO & Vice Chair, OpenText*

**John Paitaridis**, *CEO, CyberCX*

**Mark Schaan**, *Deputy Secretary (Artificial Intelligence), Privy Council Office*

**Stela Solar**, *Managing Director, Data & AI, Accenture ANZ*

Questions, answers and discussion

**12:00pm-1:30pm**

**LUNCH**

**1:30pm-2:00pm**

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY FIRESIDE CHAT**

Moderator: (TBC)

Speakers:

**Geoff Culbert**, *President, Business Council of Australia*

**Billy Kyriakopoulos**, *Director, Corporate Sales, Air Canada*

**2:00pm-2:45pm**

## **TRADE MINISTERS FIRESIDE CHAT**

Moderator:

**Michael Stutchbury**, *Editor-at-Large, Australian Financial Review*

Speakers:

**Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**, *Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for a Future Made in Australia*

**Hon Mary Ng**, *Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development*

Questions, answers and discussion

**2:45pm-3:00pm**

**HEALTH BREAK**



## PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - DAY ONE SESSIONS CONTINUED

**3:00pm-4:15pm****SESSION 3: PATHWAYS TO LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS**

As the international community faces the urgent responsibility to mitigate climate change, transitioning from high to low carbon emissions is of paramount importance. Meeting the demands for critical minerals and metals is necessary for both Canada and Australia to expand our shared pathways to Net Zero. From adaptive solutions like battery storage, carbon capture and storage technology, LNG and hydrogen to the role of existing resource extraction, Indigenous energy engagement efforts, and emission-reduction efforts in key sectors such as energy, transportation, and agriculture, this panel spotlights key insights into Australian and Canadian efforts to transition to a more sustainable, low-emission future.

Moderator:

**Jill Schnarr**, *Chief Social Innovation & Brand Officer, TELUS*

Panelists:

**Kate George**, *Co-Lead, First Nations Clean Energy Advisory Committee*

**John Ivulich**, *CEO & Country Chair, ATCO Australia*

**Ian Learmonth**, *CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation*

**Dr Graham Winkelman**, *Group Sustainability & Social Value Officer, BHP*

Questions, answers and discussion

**4:30pm-5:00pm****DEPART TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

Coaches Available for Transfer

**5:00pm-6:30pm****RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

Official Residence of the Governor of New South Wales

Speech by **Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC**

**6:30pm-6:45pm****DEPART TO ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Coaches Available for Transfer

**6:45pm-9:15pm****DINNER HOSTED BY HON MARY NG AT ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Joint Dinner in Honour of the AusCan Forum & Team Canada Trade Mission

Guest Speakers:

**Hon Mary Ng** *Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development*

**Senator the Hon Don Farrell**, *Minister for Trade and Tourism*

Thank you by:

**Goldy Hyder**, *Canadian Co-Chair*

**Bran Black**, *Australian Co-Chair*

Coaches Available for Transfer



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - DAY TWO SESSIONS

**7:00am-8:15am** **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
**Buffet Breakfast**

**8:15am-9:30am** **SESSION 4: BUILDING SMART & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

In the pursuit of sustainable development, Canada and Australia are at the forefront of innovating smarter, greener infrastructure solutions. Balancing the interconnected goals of environmental stewardship and economic development, the need to share best practices for greener infrastructure has never been more important. From critical digital infrastructure like data centres, to energy efficient buildings, mass transit, renewable energy integration and water management strategies, hear about how our countries can learn from each other about creating policy frameworks that encourage growth while mitigating environmental impact and enhancing livability and efficiency. Incorporating Indigenous communities in the conversation, this panel will explore opportunities and challenges in implementing green infrastructure across diverse geographical and regulatory landscapes, and uncover lessons learned to achieve our shared sustainable development goals.

Moderator:

**Jean-Étienne Leroux,**  
*Managing Director, Australia and New Zealand, CDPQ*

Panelists:

**Paul Bernath,** *Managing Director, Australia, CPP Investments*

**Cath Bowtell,** *Chair, IFM Investors*

**Sharleen Gale,** *Executive Chair, First Nations Major Projects Coalition*

**Tom Hasker,** *CEO, Australia and New Zealand, AtkinsRéalis*

Questions, answers and discussion





# PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - DAY TWO SESSIONS CONTINUED

9:30am-10:45am

## **SESSION 5: NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

Defence procurement and readiness are key to maintaining national security and are central priorities to Canada and Australia. As both countries navigate evolving geopolitical landscapes and technological advancements, strategic defense procurement becomes increasingly vital. This panel will compare defence procurement plans between the two countries, discuss the evolving defence landscape, and address opportunities for defence intelligence cooperation. With an emphasis on securing a free and open Indo-Pacific, experts will discuss how collaboration in technology innovation, supply chain resilience, and strategic planning can strengthen bilateral defense capabilities and safeguard regional stability.

Moderator:

**Paul Maddison**, *former Royal Canadian Navy Commander & former High Commissioner to Australia*

Panelists:

**Stefanie Beck**, *Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence*

**Spencer Fraser**, *CEO, Landing Zones Canada*

**Racheal Kuczma**, *First Assistant Secretary (Defence Commercial), Department of Defence*

**Jonathan Sadleir AM**, *Chief Strategy Officer, CEA Technologies*

Questions, answers and discussion

10:45am-11:15am

## **NETWORKING BREAK**

11:15am-12:30pm

## **SESSION 6: REGULATION'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC POLICY DELIVERY**

Economic policy promotes national growth and prosperity, but in an increasingly de-globalized economy, a new style of industrial policies can have indirect consequences on key partners. Examining how the quality of policy implementation affects living and business costs, leveraging multiculturalism and inclusion to increase workforce productivity, and diving into examples of regulatory cooperation are among the themes to be discussed in the panel. This discussion will explore what lessons Canada and Australia can derive from using regulatory, competition, fiscal, and monetary policies and instruments in various sectors to advance economic interests.

Moderator:

**Gladys Berejiklian**, *Managing Director, Enterprises & Business, Optus*

Panelists:

**Michael Brennan**, *CEO, e61 Institute & former Chair, Australian Productivity Commission*

**Melinda Cilento**, *CEO, Committee for Economic Development of Australia*

**Fred Dermarkar**, *CEO, AECL*

**Marcus Freeman**, *CEO, Canaccord Genuity Asia Pacific*

Questions, answers and discussion

# PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - DAY TWO SESSIONS CONTINUED

12:30pm-1:15pm

LUNCH

1:15pm-1:45pm

## FIRESIDE CHAT: ELECTIONS LANDSCAPE - THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

Moderator:

**Laura Dottori-Attanasio**, *President and CEO, Element Fleet Management*

Panelists:

**Bran Black**, *Australian Co-Chair, AusCan Forum*

**Goldy Hyder**, *Canadian Co-Chair, AusCan Forum*

1:45pm-3:00pm

## SESSION 7: FINDING AND FOSTERING TALENT FOR INNOVATION

A shared priority and challenge encountered by both Canada and Australia is the development of a talented, innovative labour force to meet the demands of the 21st century. Reflecting on the similarities and differences in educational systems, research environments, and industry-academic partnerships, this panel aims to spark dialogue regarding the alignment of education outcomes and those private sector skills now in demand. The dialogue will include considerations such as immigration, foreign students, temporary foreign workers, and cross-border professional accreditation. Join leaders in discussing strategies and best practices to promote STEM disciplines, skilled trades, and university R&D commercialization with a view to fostering more talent and intellectual property needed for greater innovation, productivity and growth.

Moderator:

**Lisa Raitt**, *Vice-Chair of Global Investment Banking, CIBC*

Panelists:

**John Baker**, *CEO, D2L*

**Amit Chakma**, *Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia*

**Peter Stoicheff**, *President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Saskatchewan*

Questions, answers and discussion

3:00pm-3:15pm

HEALTH BREAK



# PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - DAY TWO SESSIONS CONTINUED

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**3:15pm-4:30pm**

## NEW US ADMINISTRATION FIRESIDE CHAT

Moderator:

**Martha Hall Findlay,**

*Director, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary*

Speakers:

**Hon Perrin Beatty PC OC,**

*former President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce & former Minister of Foreign Affairs*

**Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO,**

*former Australian Ambassador to US & former Australian Minister of Industry, Innovation & Science*

**4:30pm-6:00pm**

## REFRESH & DEPART TO VENUE

*Coaches Available for Transfer*

**6:00pm-7:00pm**

## RECEPTION AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

**7:00pm-9:00pm**

## CLOSING DINNER AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Bran Black,** Australian Co-Chair

**Mark Barrenechea,** *acting Canadian Co-Chair*

**Her Excellency Kate Logan,**

*Australian High Commissioner to Canada*

**Her Excellency Julie Sunday,**

*Canadian High Commissioner to Australia*

**Mark Romoff,** *Chair & CEO*

**Peter MacArthur,** *Executive Director*

*Coaches Available for Transfer*







## GOLDY HYDER

CANADIAN CO-CHAIR

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF CANADA



Goldy Hyder is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Canada (BCC), a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose membership is comprised of more than 170 chief executives and entrepreneurs of Canada's leading and largest companies.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of Open Text Corporation and has a long track record of service on behalf of several charities and non-profit organizations, including the Coalition for a Better Future and the Business + Higher Education Roundtable.

A regular commentator in Canadian media on business, politics and leadership, he hosts the "Speaking of Business" podcast, which features interviews with Canadian innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders. He holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Calgary.



## BRAN BLACK

AUSTRALIAN CO-CHAIR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA



Bran Black was appointed Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia in September 2023.

Beginning his career as a corporate lawyer, Bran served as chief of staff in four NSW ministerial portfolios, including as chief of staff to the Premier and Treasurer. In these capacities, Bran played a significant role supporting business through the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery.

Prior to this, Bran was Chief of Strategic Initiatives at the University of NSW and led a landmark partnership between the University of Newcastle, the University of NSW and the University of Wollongong as Chief Executive Officer of the NUW Alliance.

Bran has also served as General Manager for a major community housing provider and continues to volunteer regularly as a patrol captain for his local surf life-saving club.

Bran has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Sydney.







# OPENING REMARKS

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND WELCOME TO SYDNEY

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**Yvonne Weldon**

**Councillor, City of Sydney**

Yvonne is an independent councillor and the first Aboriginal councillor in the City of Sydney's 180-year history. She was born and raised in inner Sydney but maintains strong ties to her Wiradjuri homelands of Cowra and the Riverina areas of New South Wales. Yvonne has held numerous senior positions in NSW Government, non-government and Aboriginal controlled organisations working across health, human services, housing and child protection. She has served as the elected Chair of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Deputy Chair of the NSW Australia Day Council and as a Board member of Domestic Violence NSW. In 2022, Yvonne was recognised as the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the Aboriginal community. She also recently published her debut novel, *Sixty-Seven Days*.



## SESSION 1

## GEO-POLITICAL RISK TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

**Moderator: Hon John Manley PC OC****Chair of Jefferies, Canada and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada**

The Honourable John Manley PC OC, became Chair of Jefferies Securities Inc. on December 1, 2023, having served as Senior Business Adviser at Bennett Jones LLP since September 2019. He is best known as a former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. He served in the Canadian Parliament from 1988 to 2004 as M.P. and from 1993 to 2003 he was a Minister, serving in the portfolios of Industry, Foreign Affairs and Finance. Mr. Manley returned to the private sector in 2004 where he practiced law and served as President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada. John has been a very active corporate director, and currently serves as Chair of the board of directors of TELUS. He is past Chair of CAE and CIBC, including CIBC USA. Mr. Manley graduated from Carleton University in mathematics and political science, and from the University of Ottawa in law where he was the gold medalist and subsequently law clerk to the Chief Justice of Canada, Bora Laskin. He is the recipient of many awards and honours, including honorary doctorates from 6 Canadian Universities. He is also proudly an honorary chief of the Blood Nation of Alberta.

**Panelist: Nina Davidson****Deputy Director General-Intelligence, Office of National Intelligence**

Nina Davidson has been the Office of National Intelligence (ONI)'s Deputy Director-General – Intelligence since October 2021, overseeing ONI's all source assessments and open source intelligence functions and leading mission and enterprise management functions. Nina had previously served in ONI's predecessor organisation, the Office of National Assessments, including overseeing analysis of a broad range of international political, strategic and economic issues. Nina has held a number of other senior leadership roles, including Head of Office of the Australian Government Productivity Commission, and roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Treasury ranging across Australia's international economic engagement, the domestic macroeconomic outlook and taxation policy, and organisational strategy. Nina has also worked overseas as a development specialist in the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and as an Adviser to the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund.

**Panelist: Prof Rory Medcalf AM****Head, National Security College, Australian National University**

Professor Rory Medcalf AM is Head of the National Security College at the Australian National University. His career spans diplomacy, academia, intelligence analysis, journalism and think tanks, including with the Lowy Institute. Professor Medcalf was a senior strategic analyst with the Office of National Assessments, Australia's peak intelligence agency, and a diplomat with service in India, Japan and Papua New Guinea. He has played a lead role in Australia's informal diplomacy with India and a range of other countries. Professor Medcalf is recognised globally as a thought leader on the Indo-Pacific strategic concept, as articulated in his book *Contest for the Indo-Pacific* (published internationally as *Indo-Pacific Empire*). In June 2022 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to international relations and tertiary education. In 2023 he was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute for internal affairs for contributions to understanding of the Indo-Pacific.



## SESSION 1

## GEO-POLITICAL RISK TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

**Panelist: Rob Stewart****Deputy Minister of International Trade, Global Affairs Canada**

Rob Stewart was appointed deputy minister of international trade effective October 17, 2022. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Stewart served as deputy minister of public safety for 3 years. During this time, he provided leadership on a variety of issues related to national security, community safety and countering crime, Indigenous policing, firearms, border security and emergency management, including requests for federal assistance related to the pandemic and major natural disasters. Mr. Stewart has spent most of his public service career at the Department of Finance Canada, starting in 1993. He held the role of the Government of Canada's finance deputy for the G7 and G20 and for the Financial Stability Board from 2016 to 2019. He provided leadership and policy advice to the government on a wide range of financial sector and international trade and finance matters. He was previously the assistant deputy minister of financial sector policy for 2 years, prior to which he held the position of assistant deputy minister, international trade and finance for 4 years. Before joining the Department of Finance Canada, Rob worked at Export Development Canada and in the Canadian sport system. He holds a BA from Carleton University (1981) and an MBA from the University of Ottawa (1987).

**Panelist: Todd Winterhalt****Senior Vice President, Export Development Canada**

Todd Winterhalt was appointed Senior Vice-President, International Markets and Head of Communications & Public Affairs in 2024. Todd works closely with Canada's corporate community to create new, international trade opportunities for Canadian exporters and investors. As well, he represents EDC's brand across international markets and his groups help to develop and manage EDC's international relationships, partners, and stakeholders via EDC's two dozen international locations. Todd also oversees EDC's Corporate Communications and Public Affairs functions, ensuring ongoing strategic alignment with the Government of Canada. Prior to his current role, Todd was EDC's Senior Vice President – Communications, Marketing and Corporate Strategy Officer. Since joining EDC in 2002, he has held a number of roles of increasing responsibility, including: Managing Director, Global Trade, Vice-President, International Business Development; Vice-President, Human Resources; Chief International Research Advisor, Financing; and, Director, Political Risk Assessment. Prior to joining EDC, Todd served in the Canadian diplomatic corps where he held several roles, including Consul and Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Consulate General in São Paulo, Brazil.



## SESSION 2

## THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: AI &amp; CYBER SECURITY

**Moderator: Jeff Nankivell****President & CEO of the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada**

Jeff Nankivell joined APF Canada as President and CEO in September 2021. Prior to this, he had a 33-year career in Canada's Foreign Service. He held positions at the Canadian International Development Agency between 1988 and 2008, working on programs related to China, Russia, strategic policy, and international financial institutions. A fluent Mandarin speaker, he was posted three times to Canada's embassy in Beijing, including as Deputy Head of Mission 2008-11. From 2011 to 2016, Jeff served in Ottawa as Director General responsible for Canada's official development assistance programs across Asia, first with the Canadian International Development Agency and then with Global Affairs Canada. From 2016 to 2021 he served as Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao. Jeff holds a Master's degree in political sociology from the London School of Economics, BA in international relations from the University of Toronto, and certificate (one-year program) in Chinese language and culture from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

**Panelist: Mark Barrenechea,****CEO, CTO, and Vice-Chair, OpenText**

Mark J. Barrenechea joined OpenText as President and Chief Executive Officer in January 2012, and also serves as a member of the Board of Directors. In January 2016, Mark took on the role of Chief Technology Officer and was appointed Vice Chair in September 2017. As CEO of Canada's largest software company, Mark oversees the strategic and operational direction of the organization and upholds the company's position at the forefront of the industry. Under his direction, OpenText has grown through innovation and strategic acquisitions into a multi-billion-dollar Cloud and AI company. Under Mark's leadership, OpenText has also received numerous awards, including Canada's Most Admired Corporate Cultures 2021-2023, Forbes' list of World's Best Employers 2021-2023, TIME Magazine's World's Best Companies 2023, and Canada's Top 100 Employers 2023-2024. A prominent thought leader, Mark's extensive experience in information technology and business affords him unique insights into today's world of rapid disruption and evolving technological change. He has authored a significant body of work, including Versant: Decoding the OpenVerse™, The Quarantine Chronicles, Be a Climate Innovator, The Information Advantage, and many more.

**Panelist: John Paitaridis****CEO, CyberCX**

John Paitaridis is the Founder and Group CEO of CyberCX. CyberCX is the leading cyber security organisation in AN&Z with a growing global presence and offices in the UK and USA. CyberCX has a workforce of more than 1,400 cyber security and cloud services professionals, and offers the most comprehensive services in market, including Strategy and Consulting, Security Testing and Assurance, Governance, Risk and Compliance, Managed Security Services, Network and Cloud Security, Identity and Access Management, Incident Response and Cyber Education & Training. Prior to his role with CyberCX, John spent seven years as Managing Director at Optus. In 2023, John was appointed to the Federal Government's Executive Cyber Council by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security in 2023. John was appointed co-chair of the Cyber Security Workforce Working Group. In February 2024, John was appointed the co-chair of the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



## SESSION 2

## THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: AI &amp; CYBER SECURITY

**Panelist: Mark Schaan****Deputy Secretary (Artificial Intelligence), Privy Council Office**

Mark Schaan was appointed Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet – Artificial Intelligence in July of 2024. In this role, he supports the overall AI agenda, seeking to position Canada for leadership in its responsible development and use. Mark's career has been highlighted by this cross-cutting policy and framework effort, including leading major consultations and reforms, including for telecommunications, investment review, intellectual property, bankruptcy and insolvency, privacy and AI. Mark's public service career has included roles across the policy spectrum, as well as leading on revitalizing the public service through innovative recruitment models. Mark earned his BA (Honours) from the University of Waterloo, where he studied as a Loran Scholar. Mark earned his MPhil in Comparative Social Policy, conferred in 2004, and his DPhil in Social Policy, conferred in 2010 from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Mark is also actively involved in his community.

**Panelist: Stela Solar****Managing Director, Data & AI, Accenture ANZ**

Stela Solar is Managing Director for Data and AI at Accenture ANZ, where her team leads organizations through artificial intelligence transformation, generative AI adoption and digital innovation. Stela also serves on the Data & AI Advisory Council at Beyond Blue. A recognized technology leader, she previously served as the Inaugural Director of Australia's National AI Centre and Co-chair of the Commonwealth AI Consortium, after holding several leadership positions at Microsoft, including Global Director of AI Solution Sales and Global Partner Co-sell Leader. Throughout her distinguished 20 year career, she has driven business model transformations that enable organizations to capture new opportunities through emerging technologies including Cloud, IoT, and AI, and has developed nation-wide AI frameworks such as the Voluntary AI Safety Standard. Combining her background in sustainability and creative industries with deep technical expertise, Stela is known for delivering business outcomes anchored in business value, market differentiation and responsible impact. Beyond her professional endeavors, Stela enjoys sailing and tries to find time to play cello and piano.





## FIRESIDE CHAT TOURISM INDUSTRY



**Geoff Culbert**

**President of the Business Council of Australia**

Geoff assumed the role of President of the Business Council of Australia in February 2024. Geoff is Chair of the NSW Fundraising Committee for the Australian Olympic Committee. Before joining the BCA Board as President, Geoff served as Chief Executive Officer at Sydney Airport for six years. Prior to this, Geoff worked at General Electric for 15 years in a number of senior roles across GE's portfolio of businesses in Asia and Australia. Most recently he was the President and Chief Executive of GE Australia and New Zealand



**Billy Kyriakopoulos,**

**Director, Corporate Sales, Air Canada**

Billy Kyriakopoulos possesses extensive experience in corporate sales within the aviation industry, having held various leadership positions at Air Canada, including Director of Corporate Sales, National Manager, and Manager of Corporate Sales. Prior experience includes serving as an International Account Executive at United Airlines and General Manager of Sales for Canada at US Airways.





## FIRESIDE CHAT MINISTERIAL

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**Moderator: Michael Stutchbury**

**Editor-at-Large The Australian Financial Review**

Michael Stutchbury has just returned to The Australian Financial Review as Editor-at-Large after serving for nearly 13 years as the masthead's Editor-in-Chief. He has entered his fifth decade of writing for or editing either of Australia's two national newspapers. Stutch completed a first-class honours degree in economics at the University of Adelaide while doing a journalism cadetship on The Advertiser in the 1970s. In 1981, he became an economic researcher in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra. He joined the Financial Review in 1982 as a Melbourne-based industrial relations writer before becoming Canberra-based economics writer, economics editor in Sydney, Washington correspondent during the first Clinton term and opinion editor. He joined The Australian in 1998 as Deputy Editor (business) before becoming Editor between 2001 to 2006 and then economics editor. He returned to the Financial Review as Editor-in-Chief in 2011.

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**Speaker: Hon Tim Ayres**

**Assistant Minister for Trade and for a Future Made in Australia**

Tim Ayres was elected as a Senator for New South Wales in the 2019 election. During the 46th Parliament, he was Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration and Member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Standing Committee. He led the work of several Select Inquiries including a Senate report on the capability of the Australian Public Service. He was appointed as Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for Manufacturing in June 2022, after the election of the Labor Government led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. In July 2024 his appointment changed to Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for a Future Made In Australia. Before entering Parliament, Tim spent twenty-four years in the trade union movement, representing the interests of workers across a variety of sectors including manufacturing, defence, food processing, aviation and metal industries. He held several elected leadership roles in the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and has been a long-standing member of the Australian Labor Party's National Executive. Senator Ayres grew up on his family's beef cattle farm on the north coast of NSW and completed high school in Glen Innes. He studied industrial relations at the University of Sydney and lives in Sydney.

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**Speaker: Hon Mary Ng**

**Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development of Canada remove and Senator**

The Honourable Mary Ng was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Markham—Thornhill in 2017. In 2018, she was appointed to Cabinet and currently serves as the Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development. In this role, Minister Ng has positioned Canada for long-term success in the global marketplace by securing trade deals, establishing strategic partnerships, and launching negotiations with key partners for the future. She promotes Canadian exports around the globe and champions the growth of Canadian businesses by fostering strong international partnerships that attract investments and drive innovation to create middle class jobs at home. With 20 years of experience in education, women's leadership, job creation, and entrepreneurship, Minister Ng is a dedicated community leader who strongly believes in the power of public service. After immigrating to Canada from Hong Kong as a child, she knows firsthand the challenges, and the opportunities, that many new Canadians experience. She is dedicated to being a powerful advocate for middle-class families and works tirelessly to ensure fairness and opportunity throughout the country.

## SESSION 3

# PATHWAYS TO LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS



**Moderator: Jill Schnarr**

**Chief Social Innovation & Brand Officer, TELUS**

As TELUS' Chief Social Innovation, Communications & Brand Officer with more than 30 years of telecommunications experience and communications expertise, Jill Schnarr leads its Corporate Citizenship & Communications team. At the helm of communications, public relations, brand marketing, sponsorship, public policy and community investment, Jill brings TELUS' social purpose to life to drive social change, leveraging TELUS' world-leading technology and compassion to enable remarkable human outcomes. Bolstering its storytelling impact, and fostering strong, positive relationships with customers and Canadians, Jill has significantly influenced, built upon and safeguarded TELUS' reputation as a global leader, enabling TELUS to be one of Canada's most trusted brands.



**Panelist: Kate George**

**Co-Lead, First Nations Clean Energy Advisory Committee**

Kate George is a Putejurra woman from the Murchison-Gascoyne region in WA and was the first Aboriginal student to graduate in law from the ANU and the first Aboriginal woman to be admitted to practice law in WA. She has held senior public service positions, including as a Ministerial Advisor at both the State and Federal level and worked across the corporate, public and non-government sectors during her career. Kate has extensive and long-term experience in community development and planning in key areas including Aboriginal justice, health, governance, training and employment and economic development. She also has extensive and long-term international, national and state-wide experience in international law, community development and planning in key areas including justice, health, governance, training and employment and economic development. She has a unique background of experience in the public, corporate and community sectors across Australia. Her experience with the resources industry extends across northern Australia with particular experience in the Pilbara region.



**Panelist John Ivulich,**

**CEO & Country Chair, ATCO Australia**

John was appointed Chief Executive Officer of ATCO Australia in October 2023, and Country Chair in March 2023. He is the first Australian to be appointed to these positions for the global energy infrastructure and logistics company. As CEO and Country Chair, John has complete business accountability for ATCO's Australia's regulated gas utility business, its renewables, power, clean fuels, and emerging hydrogen businesses in Australia and all the functions that support them. He is also responsible for developing and executing ATCO's strategy in Australia, stewarding and representing ATCO's broad interests with government and regulatory stakeholders across all of ATCO's lines of business in Australia, including ATCO Structures as Chair of its board in Australia. Mr Ivulich joined ATCO as Director, Finance during the acquisition of WA Gas Networks in 2011 and was Chief Financial Officer for the Australian business for 9 years. His prior experience includes financial and leadership roles in the consulting and corporate sectors in Australia and the UK. John was born in Western Australia and is married with two adult sons.



## SESSION 3

## PATHWAYS TO LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS

**Panelist: Ian Learmonth****CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation**

Mr Learmonth has more than 30 years' experience as a financier and investor, having worked in Australia, Asia and Europe across asset finance, clean energy and major infrastructure projects, as well as pioneering Australian social impact investing. Prior to his appointment as CEO for the CEFC in 2017, Mr Learmonth established Social Ventures Australia's Impact Investing business, which included raising venture capital and affordable housing funds as well as launching Australia's first Social Impact Bond in 2013. Previously an Executive Director of Macquarie Group for 12 years, Mr Learmonth has extensive global investment banking experience establishing various Macquarie businesses, notably European renewable energy and carbon credit investing as well as cross-border asset and structured finance and securitisation in Asia and Europe. Mr Learmonth has degrees in Law and Commerce from the University of Queensland and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a director of venture capital firm Virescent Ventures, a member of the University of Queensland Business School Advisory Board and has been a long-standing director of Sydney's Belvoir Street theatre company.

**Panelist: Dr Graham Winkelman****Group Sustainability & Social Value Officer, BHP**

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## SESSION 4

# BUILDING SMART & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



**Moderator: Jean-Etienne Leroux**

**Managing Director, Australia/New Zealand, CDPQ**

As head of the region, Mr Leroux also takes an active part in positioning CDPQ as a partner of choice across all asset classes, in promoting CDPQ's brand image and in representing the organization with the financial and business community, as well as with key stakeholders. He oversees a team of professionals responsible for targeting promising opportunities for CDPQ in the region. The portfolio under his management includes assets in public transportation, water and energy distribution, utilities, toll roads, airports and ports. Mr Leroux is also responsible for the Sydney office, where he has worked since 2015. He joined CDPQ in 2001, first working as Director, then Senior Director, Infrastructure. Prior to that, he was an Analyst, then Director, Investment, Private Equity. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in finance and quantitative methods, as well as a Master's in Financial Management and Engineering from HEC Montréal. He is a CFA charterholder and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). Mr Leroux sits on the Boards of Directors of Plenary Group Holdings, the Port of Brisbane, the WestConnex (toll roads), Northwest Rapid Transit (Sydney Metro) and Transgrid, the New South Wales electricity transmission network. He is also a past member of the Boards of InTransit BC, the Budapest airport, South East Water UK as well as the Monitoring Committee of Fiera Axium Infrastructure.



**Panelist: Cath Bowtell**

**Chair, IFM Investors**

Cath is the Chair of IFM Investors; Industry Super Holdings (ISH); the Royal Women's Hospital; and the Federal Government's Jobs & Skills Ministerial Advisory Board. She is a Director of Industry Fund Services (IFS) and of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation. Cath has worked for many years in senior roles in both the superannuation industry and union movement. She was the Chief Executive of IFS and Chief Executive of the Australian Government Employees Superannuation Trust (AGEST) from 2010 until its merger with AustralianSuper in 2013. Prior to this, Cath was a Senior Industrial Officer at the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). She has held a number of directorships and committee positions throughout her career, including Director of AustralianSuper, Director of AGEST Super and Director of Ausgrid.





## SESSION 4

# BUILDING SMART & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

**Panelist: Paul Bernath****Managing Director, Australia, CPP Investments**

Paul Bernath is country head for CPP Investments in Australia and is also responsible for leading the Fund's infrastructure investment business in the Asia Pacific region (ex. India). Prior to joining CPP Investments in 2014, Mr. Bernath spent over 10 years focusing on public and private mergers & acquisitions, capital markets and restructuring projects and large infrastructure transactions, including time as a corporate attorney at Allens Linklaters and as an M&A transaction consultant, based variously in Australia and in Cambridge, USA. Mr. Bernath holds a B.Sc (Hons) (Pharm.) from the University of Melbourne and L.L.B. (Hons) from the Melbourne Law School, and has also studied on exchange at the University of British Columbia. Mr. Bernath is a non-executive director of AirTrunk, Pacific National and WestConnex in Australia, and is a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Cikopo-Palimanan (Cipali) toll road in Indonesia.

**Panelist: Sharleen Gale****Executive Chair, First Nations Major Projects Coalition**

Sharleen Gale has served as the chair of the board of directors for the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) since 2017, overseeing growth of the organization and promoting economic inclusion of First Nations to the regional, national, and international stage. Sharleen was elected to the council of Fort Nelson First Nation, serving 15 years with 8 of those years as Chief. Sharleen's experience as a community leader is furthered by her corporate experience in the oil and gas, renewable energy, and forestry sectors. During the 2020 global pandemic, Sharleen served the Province of BC as a member of the Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force. She was also previously appointed to serve on the Canada Electricity Advisory Council and on the International Energy Agency's Global Commission. Sharleen is a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal awarded in recognition for her dedication to public service and leadership in economic development.





## SESSION 4

# BUILDING SMART & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



### **Panelist: Tom Hasker**

#### **CEO, Australia/New Zealand, AtkinsRealis**

Tom Hasker, CEO for AtkinsRéalis Australia and New Zealand, has over [25] years of consultancy experience across design, project and program management and advisory services. He has developed his leadership in the sector in senior roles across Asia Pacific and over a decade working in the Middle East. At AtkinsRéalis, he is responsible for helping grow the company's long-term presence in Australia and New Zealand, and to continue creating critical infrastructure in line with AtkinsRéalis' global purpose of engineering a better future for our planet and its people.





## SESSION 5

### NATIONAL DEFENCE & SECURITY

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**Moderator: Paul Maddison**

**former Royal Canadian Navy Commander & former High Commissioner to Australia**

Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Paul Maddison is a graduate of Canada's Royal Military College and served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 38 years. A naval warfare officer, he commanded at all levels and retired in 2013 from his appointment as Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. Paul returned to public service in 2015 and served as High Commissioner of Canada for Australia, with accreditation to seven Pacific Island countries. In 2019 Paul was appointed Professor of Practice and inaugural Director of the University of New South Wales Defence Research Institute in Sydney and Canberra. There he built deeper relationships and increased collaboration with federal, state, industry, university and international partners, all with the aim of playing a defining role in accelerating the delivery of capability for the Australian Defence Force. An Australian citizen since 2020, Paul now provides advisory services for clients across the defence innovation ecosystem.

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**Panelist: Jonathan Sadleir AM**

**Chief Strategy Officer, CEA Technologies**

Jonathan is the Chief Strategy Officer of CEA Technologies and the Chairman of FLAIM Systems. Prior to joining CEA Jonathan was COO of a firm specialising in improving efficiency and effectiveness of organisations involved in Manufacturing, Oil, Mining and Gas after a successful career within both the Canadian and Royal Australian Navy culminating in the rank of Commodore. Jonathan is a citizen of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. He is a graduate of the University of Waterloo and holds several post graduate qualifications including the Royal College of Defence Studies UK. His service on multiple ships and his military commands in Australia, Canada and the US across the full operational spectrum in peacetime and conflict resulted in him being admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012.

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**Panelist: Racheal Kuczma**

**First Assistant Secretary (Defence Commercial), Department of Defence**

Racheal Kuczma commenced as First Assistant Secretary Procurement & Contracting in September 2024, which serves as the Department of Defence's commercial lead. Racheal brings with her a wealth of commercial, government and industry experience, including 17 years in Defence, where she joined as a graduate in 2004 and progressed up to the Assistant Secretary Materiel Procurement & Assistant Secretary Submarines roles. Within this period, she has undertaken a variety of commercial roles supporting acquisition programs in the Aerospace and Maritime domains, such as the MRH, P8-A Poseidon, C-27J Spartan and the Attack-class Submarine. Racheal's time working in industry with Northrop Grumman Australia in a contracts and supply chain role has also provided her invaluable insight into understanding how US primes work, and she re-commences in Defence with a passion to bolster Defence procurement and increase efficiencies for the department & industry alike.

## SESSION 5

### NATIONAL DEFENCE & SECURITY



**Panelist: Spencer Fraser,**  
**Founder & CEO, Landing Zones Canada**

Spencer is a seasoned business founder with extensive experience in defence, marine, and aerospace. He has pioneered the development and export of military uncrewed vehicle systems (UVS), selling over 10,000 units across 20 countries. His teams have generated over \$4 billion CAD in marine business activity. Spencer has notably exported UVS to the Australian Defence Forces and worked to establish the RCAF/RAAF Heron UAV deployments in Afghanistan. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy (1983-2003), with exchange roles in France and the UK. Spencer was President & CTO at Meggitt Canada and Co-Founder & CEO of Federal Fleet Services. He holds a BA from Royal Military College, MA from King's College London, MBA from Queen's University, and a Diploma in Strategic Leadership from Oxford's Saïd Business School. He was recognized as Canada's Defence Executive of the Year (2012) and Canada's #1 Defence Company (2013).



**Panelist: Stefanie Beck**  
**Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence**

On May 24, 2024, Stefanie Beck was appointed Deputy Minister (DM) of National Defence (DND). Prior to that DM Beck was the DM of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Associate DM for DND for 13 months. Between October 2020 and January 2022, DM Beck served as Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. DM Beck was the Assistant Secretary to Cabinet, Priorities and Planning at the Privy Council Office, where she led work on Whole of Government priority setting and policy development. DM Beck joined the Government of Canada in 1990 with the Department of External Affairs, working abroad as a political officer and an ambassador. She served in Dakar, Senegal, Canberra, Australia, and in Cambodia and Croatia. DM Beck grew up on several continents, attended high school in Singapore and St. Catharine's, Ontario, and has a Bachelor of Arts in German and Italian from McGill University on several continents, attended high school in Singapore and St. Catharine's, Ontario, and has a Bachelor of Arts in German and Italian from McGill University.



## SESSION 6

## REGULATION'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC POLICY DELIVERY

**Moderator: Gladys Berejiklian****Managing Director, Enterprises & Business, Optus**

Gladys was appointed to the role of Optus Managing Director, Enterprise and Business in February 2022. She has a proven track record of executing and delivering major complex projects and building strong, trusted relationships with the business community. In 2003, Gladys was elected to the New South Wales Parliament, and from 2011 she served in senior leadership roles, including Minister for Transport, Treasurer and the 45th Premier of New South Wales. Before this, Gladys was an executive at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a graduate diploma in international studies from the University of Sydney and a Master of Commerce from the University of New South Wales.

**Panelist: Fred Dermarkar****President & CEO, AECL**

Fred Dermarkar was appointed as AECL's President and CEO in February 2021 to lead the organization in its mission to drive nuclear innovation to deliver clean energy technologies and improve the quality of life of Canadians while caring for the land. AECL is a federal Crown Corporation that delivers most of its mandate through a long-term contract with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for the management and operation of its sites. Prior to joining AECL, Fred was President and CEO of the CANDU Owners Group (COG), where for almost seven years he led the not-for-profit organization to advance collaboration between CANDU nuclear reactor operators in seven countries worldwide. Fred has been working in the Canadian nuclear industry for more than 40 years. Prior to joining COG, he occupied a variety of key technical and senior leadership positions at Ontario Power Generation in support of the design, commissioning, operation and refurbishment of its CANDU reactors. Fred has received the Canadian Nuclear Association's Ian McRae award in recognition of his substantive engineering contributions, leadership and positive influence on the Canadian nuclear industry and the advancement of nuclear energy in Canada, and the Nuclear Excellence Award from the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). Fred holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Toronto and is a registered professional engineer in the Province of Ontario.

**Panelist: Marcus Freeman****CEO, Canaccord Genuity Asia Pacific**

Marcus Freeman was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Canaccord Genuity Asia-Pacific in February 2015. Marcus co-founded BGF Equities in 2008 and following a 50% equity transaction with Canaccord Genuity Group, became the Managing Director and CEO of Canaccord Genuity Australia in 2011. Under his leadership, Canaccord Genuity's Australian operations has successfully increased market share through an expanded service offering and diversified sector coverage, to become a top-ranked independent investment bank in Australia. He is currently tasked with coordinating the firm's efforts in Australia, Singapore, Beijing and Hong Kong to facilitate a seamless approach to client coverage in the region. With two decades of capital markets experience, Marcus completed his B. Com and was originally recruited to the graduate program of Price Waterhouse before relocating some years later to London where he worked at Sakura Bank (Foreign Exchange), Rabobank International (Foreign Exchange) and Deutsche Bank (Global Equities). He returned to Australia in 2000 to work in Bell Potter's equities business for approximately eight years, where he built significant institutional and investment banking relationships before founding BGF Equities in 2008.

## SESSION 6

# REGULATION'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC POLICY DELIVERY



**Panelist: Melinda Cilento**

**CEO, Committee for Economic Development of Australia**

Melinda Cilento is Chief Executive of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, a company director, economist and experienced senior executive. She is also the Deputy Chair of Australian Unity, Chair of the Expert Council on University Governance, and a member of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration. She is a Member of Amplify Australia Research Committee and a Melbourne Institute Advisory Board Member. Melinda was previously a Non-Executive Director with Woodside Petroleum, Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia, a Commissioner with the Productivity Commission, Deputy CEO and Chief Economist with the Business Council of Australia and held senior roles with Invesco, the Federal Department of Treasury, and the International Monetary Fund.



**Panelist: Michael Brennan**

**CEO, e61 Institute & former Chair, Australian Productivity Commission**

Michael Brennan is an experienced Australian public policy economist. He is currently CEO of the e61 Institute – a non-partisan, not for profit economic research institute bringing frontier research insights to the Australian public policy debate. He was previously the Chair of Australia's Productivity Commission, overseeing reports on Australia's productivity performance and a broad range of economic and social policy issues, including the 5-yearly Productivity report Advancing Prosperity, and the PC's inaugural report into progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Before that was Deputy Secretary in the Commonwealth Treasury with responsibility for the Fiscal Group. He has also been a Deputy Secretary of the Victorian Treasury, and worked as a senior adviser and Chief of Staff to Treasurers and Ministers for Finance at the State and Federal level. He has also worked as an Associate Director at PwC.





## FIRESIDE CHAT

### ELECTIONS LANDSCAPE- BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

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**Moderator: Laura Dottori-Attanasio**

**President & CEO, Element Fleet Management**

Laura Dottori-Attanasio is CEO of Element Fleet Management, the world's largest publicly traded automotive fleet manager. Previously, she led Personal and Business Banking at a major Canadian bank and served as Chief Risk Officer. A passionate community advocate, she co-chairs the Children's Aid Foundation Fundraising Committee, serves on multiple boards, and has received honors such as the King Clancy Award and WXN Top 100 Hall of Fame induction. Laura holds a finance and economics degree from Western University, is bilingual in English and French, and continues to make an impact through her leadership and philanthropy.

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**Speaker: Bran Black**

**Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia**

Bran Black was appointed Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia in September 2023. Beginning his career as a corporate lawyer, Bran served as chief of staff in four NSW ministerial portfolios, including as chief of staff to the Premier and Treasurer. In these capacities, Bran played a significant role supporting business through the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery. Prior to this, Bran was Chief of Strategic Initiatives at the University of NSW and led a landmark partnership between the University of Newcastle, the University of NSW and the University of Wollongong as Chief Executive Officer of the NUW Alliance. Bran has also served as General Manager for a major community housing provider and continues to volunteer regularly as a patrol captain for his local surf life-saving club. Bran has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Sydney.

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**Speaker: Goldy Hyder**

**President and CEO, Business Council of Canada**

Goldy Hyder is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Canada (BCC), a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose membership is comprised of more than 170 chief executives and entrepreneurs of Canada's leading and largest companies. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Open Text Corporation and has a long track record of service on behalf of several charities and non-profit organizations, including the Coalition for a Better Future and the Business + Higher Education Roundtable. A regular commentator in Canadian media on business, politics and leadership, he hosts the "Speaking of Business" podcast, which features interviews with Canadian innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders. He holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Calgary.

## SESSION 7

### FINDING & FOSTERING TALENT FOR INNOVATION



**Moderator: Lisa Raitt**

**Vice-Chair of Global Investment Banking, CIBC**

The Honourable Lisa Raitt joined CIBC Capital Markets in January 2020, having previously worked in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Raitt's current focus is on senior client coverage and business development with clients in the energy, infrastructure and industrial sectors, which align closely with her deep expertise. Prior to her current role, Ms. Raitt was the President and CEO of the Toronto Port Authority. She was elected into the House of Commons in 2008, where she went on to hold three senior portfolios serving as Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Labour, and Minister of Transport. Most recently, Ms. Raitt was the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition and the Conservative Party of Canada. Ms. Raitt holds a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Francis Xavier University and a master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Guelph. She possesses an LL.B from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Ontario bar in 1998. In 2020 Ms. Raitt was named a Woodrow Wilson Center Global Fellow of the Canada Institute. In June 2024, Lisa was presented with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ottawa.



**Panelist: John Baker**

**FOUNDER & CEO, D2L**

John founded D2L in 1999, at the age of twenty-two, while attending the University of Waterloo. He strongly believes that learning is the foundation upon which all progress and achievement rests. He is a member of the Business Council of Canada, board member of the Business Higher Education Roundtable, member of the Industry Strategy Council in Canada, Chair of the Digital Economic Strategy Table in Canada, has served on the Governing Council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is the Past Chair of the board of Communitech, and is a board member of Canada's National Ballet School. John was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross, the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (Ontario for Software and Technology), Young Alumni Achievement Medal from University of Waterloo, and Intrepid Entrepreneur of the Year in Waterloo Region Hall of Fame. John graduated from the University of Waterloo with an Honours B.A.Sc. in Systems Design Engineering, with First Class Honours and an option in Management Sciences.



**Panelists: Professor Amit Chakma**

**Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia**

Professor Amit Chakma is the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia. He served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Ontario from 2009 to 2019. Prior to his tenure at Western, he served as Provost and Vice-President Academic at the University of Waterloo from 2001 to 2009. In addition to his university leadership roles, Professor Chakma has served as Chair of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities from 2017 to 2019. He was also the Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Asian University for Women from 2013 to 2015 and chaired Canada's Advisory Panel on International Education Strategy from 2011 to 2013.



## SESSION 7

## FINDING &amp; FOSTERING TALENT FOR INNOVATION

**Panelist: Peter Stoicheff****President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Saskatchewan**

Peter Stoicheff began his 38-year career at the University of Saskatchewan in 1986. After serving as a professor and then dean of the College of Arts & Science, he was appointed the 11th President of the University of Saskatchewan in 2015. He has led it to be one of Canada's top research-intensive medical-doctoral universities, with global impact in water and food security, synchrotron science, pandemic preparedness and agricultural technology. Recognizing the importance of postsecondary education to Indigenous peoples, Peter has supported the University of Saskatchewan to be a Reconciliation leader in the country, increasing its Indigenous student enrolments and ensuring its close connections with local and national Indigenous communities and organizations. He has also increased the university's partnerships with other world-leading institutions.



## FIRESIDE CHAT

### NEW US ADMINISTRATION

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**Moderator: Martha Hall Findlay**

**Director, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary**

Prior to joining the School of Public Policy, Martha was Chief Sustainability and Chief Climate Officer for Suncor Energy, and before that CEO of the Canada West Foundation. As a Member of the Canadian Parliament she served in the Official Opposition shadow cabinet for International Trade; Finance; Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; and Public Works and Government; she served on the House of Commons committees for all of those portfolios. She has been a corporate lawyer, international trade expert and senior business executive. She was named a Canadian Climate Champion in 2021; a top global female oil and gas executive and one of the top 275 global women influencers; and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

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**Speaker: Hon Perrin Beatty PC OC**

**former President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce & former Minister of Foreign Affairs**

The Honourable Perrin Beatty was first elected to the House of Commons at 22. Seven years later, he became the youngest minister to that point in Canadian history. Mr. Beatty led seven ministries in the Cabinets of three Prime Ministers. After leaving government, Mr. Beatty headed the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation before leading Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters. He then became the longest-serving President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, holding that position from 2007 until last August. Mr. Beatty served as Chancellor of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from three Canadian universities. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2020, the Government of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. He currently serves as a corporate director and advisor. He is Co-chair of the Expert Committee on Canada-US Relations.

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**Speaker: Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO**

**Former Australian Ambassador to US & former Australian Minister of Industry, Innovation & Science**

The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO is the former Australian Ambassador to the United States & former Australian Minister of Industry, Innovation & Science and now a Partner and Chair of TAG's Australia Practice. He is a leading expert on Australian public policy and politics who brings a wealth of public and private sector experience spanning national security, industry innovation, economic policy, and banking. Ambassador Sinodinos was closely involved in Australia's negotiations related to AUKUS, the Quad, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. He was also Cabinet Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. He started his Australian Public Service career in 1979, rising to the Senior Executive Service in the Department of the Treasury. In 2006, he left government to work with Goldman Sachs JBWere, followed by the National Australia Bank. In 2008, Ambassador Sinodinos was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his service to politics and he is a Distinguished Fellow of the Australia & New Zealand School of Government.



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Canadian Co-Chair:

### Goldy Hyder

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Canada

## Australian Co-Chair:

### Bran Black

Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia

## Members:

### Sam Boutziouvis

Vice-President, Government Relations and Multilateral Development Institutions for AtkinsRéalis Canada Inc.

### Julian Ovens

Partner, Crestview Strategy

### Kimbalee Clews

Communication & Engagement Manager for ATCO Australia

### Sarah Quigley

Acting Consul General of Canada in Sydney

### Cameron Crouch

Manager of International Relations and Portfolio Growth for BHP

### Mark Romoff

Chair & Chief Executive Officer, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum

### Matthew Doman

Vice President, Crestview Strategy based in Sydney

### Norman Steinberg

Vice-Chair of BFL Canada

### Caitlin Gill

Consultant with Egon Zehnder

### Natalie Stirling

Executive Director, Strategy, Membership and Engagement, Business Council of Australia

### Trevor Kennedy

Vice-President, Indo-Pacific, Business Council of Canada

### Julie Sunday

High Commissioner of Canada to Australia

### Jean-Étienne Leroux

Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand, CDPQ Australia

### Bradley Sutherland

Senior Manager, Business Development at Air Canada

### Kate Logan

High Commissioner of Australia to Canada

### Deirdra Tindale

Vice President, Crestview Strategy

### Portia Maier

Barrister-at-Law

### Michelle Webster

Australia's Consul-General and Trade and Investment Commissioner

## Executive Director:

### Peter MacArthur

## Director of Events & Communications:

### Tannis Wengel

## Executive Assistant, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum

### Katherine Starr



## **Sam Boutziouvis**

### **Vice-President, Government Relations and Multilateral Development Institutions for AtkinsRéalis Canada Inc.**

Mr Boutziouvis is based in Canada's capital, Ottawa, where he oversees high-level relationship management between the Government of Canada and AtkinsRéalis' senior leadership team. He collaborates with senior management and various business units to secure critical political, diplomatic, public service, and crown agency (EDC, CCC) support for the company's domestic and international market expansion. Sam also represents the corporation by maintaining strategic relationships with multilateral development institutions and national and international industry associations. His extensive experience, including over 20 years with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (a CEO-based public policy advocacy organization), greatly contributes to his role. During his tenure at the Council, he held increasingly senior positions, including Vice-President, Policy, with a focus on international and fiscal issues. Previously, Sam served as a senior analyst in the Gas Exports Division at the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources (now NRCan) with the Government of Canada. Sam holds an MA in Public Administration from Carleton University, undergraduate degrees in Economics and Biochemistry from the University of Ottawa, and has completed the Executive Program at the University of Western Ontario.



## **Kimbalee Clews**

### **Communication & Engagement Manager for ATCO Australia**

Kimbalee was appointed as the Communications and Engagement Manager at ATCO Australia in 2021. In this role, she manages the New Energy division's stakeholder and community engagement team, which is the linchpin between ATCO's commercial project teams, the corporate affairs division and external stakeholders. She is responsible for the development and delivery of ATCO's stakeholder and communication strategies, media liaison and key stakeholder and government relationship management, in supporting the development and delivery of ATCO's infrastructure projects across Australia's eastern states. With more than 25 years' experience in the energy industry, Kimbalee has previously worked in the retail and corporate divisions of energy providers, as well as for distribution network service providers in NSW. Kimbalee lives with her husband in regional NSW on a small farm and has an adult daughter who is currently completing undergraduate studies at the University of Newcastle.



## **Cameron Crouch**

### **Manager of International Relations and Portfolio Growth for BHP**

Cameron joined BHP in 2017 and has predominantly worked in roles focused on providing geopolitical and public policy advice, and engaging with key government and civil society stakeholders. Prior to joining BHP, Cameron worked as an economics and policy consultant for nine years, working at firms like EY and PwC. Cameron holds a PhD in International Security from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor and Master's degree from the University of Queensland.



## COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

**Matthew Doman****Vice President, Crestview Strategy based in Sydney**

Mr Doman is a seasoned public affairs professional with over 30 years of experience spanning government, media, industry advocacy, and communications across Australia, Latin America, and the United States. He has a proven track record leading successful campaigns for investment and development. With strong communication skills, political acumen, and media insight, Matt has held senior positions in the Australian oil and gas sector, fostering collaborations between industry, government, and regional communities nationwide. Previously, Matt served as the Public Affairs Director of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, the leading industry body, and worked with the International Gas Union. As a former press secretary to Australian Government Ministers for Finance and Trade, he engaged extensively with foreign governments, industry bodies, and private sector entities. Before his tenure in government and the energy sector, Matt spent 13 years in journalism across Australia, Latin America, and the United States, contributing to reputable publications such as The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The Economist, and The Financial Times. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Flinders University of South Australia.

**Caitlin Gill****Consultant with Egon Zehnder**

An Australian based in Montreal, Ms Gill co-leads the firm's Canadian Leadership Advisory practice focussing on the assessment, development and recruitment of c-suite leaders across industries. She supports Boards on topics such as CEO succession, Director renewal and activist situations. Prior to Egon Zehnder, Caitlin was a Partner with Boston Consulting Group. Before that she was a senior lawyer at the National Broadband Network. Caitlin began her career at Allens Linklaters as a Senior Associate in the Mergers and Acquisitions team. Outside of work Caitlin is passionate about finding ways to bring the best of Australia to Canada and vice versa. To that end, she is constantly educating her husband and young son around key topics such as vegemite, cricket and white sand beaches while also learning to ski and ice skate in the Canadian winter.

**Trevor Kennedy****Vice-President, Indo-Pacific, Business Council of Canada**

Based in Tokyo, Mr Kennedy leads the Council's work on Canadian business trade and investment ties with countries in the Indo-Pacific. Trevor advises and executes on trade policy initiatives and liaises with Canadian policymakers, foreign officials and international business networks representing key partners. Prior to joining the Council in 2016, Trevor was a Trade Policy Officer at Global Affairs Canada. He also worked with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada as a Junior Research Fellow focused on trade policy. He has lived and worked in Japan with the Japan Exchange (JET) Programme and speaks Japanese. Trevor is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and is a member of the Canada-Korea Forum Steering Committee. He holds a Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from St. Thomas University, New Brunswick.



**Jean-Étienne Leroux**

**Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand, CDPQ**

As head of the region, Mr Leroux also takes an active part in positioning CDPQ as a partner of choice across all asset classes, in promoting CDPQ's brand image and in representing the organization with the financial and business community, as well as with key stakeholders. He oversees a team of professionals responsible for targeting promising opportunities for CDPQ in the region. The portfolio under his management includes assets in public transportation, water and energy distribution, utilities, toll roads, airports and ports. Mr Leroux is also responsible for the Sydney office, where he has worked since 2015. He joined CDPQ in 2001, first working as Director, then Senior Director, Infrastructure. Prior to that, he was an Analyst, then Director, Investment, Private Equity. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in finance and quantitative methods, as well as a Master's in Financial Management and Engineering from HEC Montréal. He is a CFA charterholder and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). Mr Leroux sits on the Boards of Directors of Plenary Group Holdings, the Port of Brisbane, the WestConnex (toll roads), Northwest Rapid Transit (Sydney Metro) and Transgrid, the New South Wales electricity transmission network. He is also a past member of the Boards of InTransit BC, the Budapest airport, South East Water UK as well as the Monitoring Committee of Fiera Axiom Infrastructure.



**Kate Logan**

**High Commissioner of Australia to Canada**

Ms Logan is a senior career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Strategy Division. She previously led the Consular and Crisis Management Division, was Chief of Protocol and Assistant Secretary of the Executive Branch. She was Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for South and South-east Asia and counter-terrorism issues. Her roles overseas include Ambassador to Greece, Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Paris, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian High Commission in Colombo, and Second Secretary at the Australian Embassy in Athens. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) majoring in international law and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne. In 1994 she completed a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Australian National University. She speaks French and Greek.





## COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

**Peter MacArthur****Executive Director, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum**

Mr MacArthur became the Forum's Executive Director in January 2024 following a 40-year career in the Canada's foreign service. Peter served as Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor Leste and the Philippines from 2016-2022 and 3 years as Canada's APEC Senior Official during the Peru, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea host years. His diplomatic assignments across the Indo-Pacific region as trade commissioner included Japan, India, Hong Kong and Russia. Early in his career Peter completed a two year secondment to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. At Global Affairs Canada, he was Director General for South, Southeast Asia and Oceania where he oversaw bilateral and ASEAN relations with a range of countries including Australia, attending the 2015 Forum in Vancouver in support of federal ministers. Peter was also Director General for Global Business Opportunities focused on industry sectors in addition to international education and science and technology.

**Portia Maier****Barrister-at-Law and Former Australian Consul-General and Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner to Canada**

Portia is a barrister admitted to practice in the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Queensland, specialising in commercial, corporations, trade and investment law. She is also a lecturer and Canadian law course convenor at a leading Australian university's Canadian Law program. In 2012- 2017, she served as the Australian Consul-General and Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to Canada, leading Australian Government activities in investment, trade, education and consular services. In 2016, she served as Dean and Chair of the Board of the Consular Corps of Toronto. Previously, Portia was Executive Director for UBS Private Banking In Zurich and Geneva, Switzerland and UBS Warburg Investment Banking in London, UK. She has also provided corporate advisory services to boards as senior management consultant in North America, Europe and Asia. Portia holds a Master of Laws and a Juris Doctor from the University of Queensland, a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the College of Law, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of New South Wales with postgraduate study in international law with Cornell University Law School and the Sorbonne University in Paris.





# COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES



**Julian Ovens**

**Partner, Crestview Strategy**

Julian Ovens brings extensive experience as an international corporate development leader, natural resources executive, and senior political advisor as Partner and owner at Crestview Strategy, a public affairs agency, based in Ottawa. He sits on the Boards of Directors of Canada Nickel Company and the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), which assists Canadian exporters secure international contracts with foreign governments. Julian was Chief of Staff to two of Canada's International Trade Ministers, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2018 The Hill Times named Julian among the Top 40 Influencing Canadian Foreign Policy. He was Head of Strategy and Development, Potash (formerly Diamonds) at BHP in Saskatoon and Project Director, Iron Ore Africa, BHP Minerals Exploration, based in Singapore. He previously led commercial efforts for development projects and engaged in global mergers & acquisitions for BHP Billiton Aluminium in London. Julian also worked in the corporate Mergers & Acquisitions team of (Rio Tinto) Alcan, based in Paris and Montreal, and began his finance career in investment banking at Credit Suisse First Boston (now UBS) in Toronto. He holds an Honours Business Administration degree from the Ivey Business School at Western University and studied Economics and Political Science at the University of Ottawa. Julian is fluent in French



**Sarah Quigley**

**Acting Consul General of Canada in Sydney**

Sarah Quigley joined Global Affairs Canada in 2007 after practicing law with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. Sarah has served in the Office of the Deputy Minister of International Trade and in the International Law Bureau. Outside of headquarters, Sarah has served in Washington, DC as Special Advisor to the Canadian Ambassador to the United States and in the Pacific Regional Office in Vancouver. Sarah now represents Canada as the Acting Consul General of Canada in Sydney.





## COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

**Mark Romoff**

**Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum President, MRInsights Inc. and former President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships**

Mark Romoff is the former President and CEO of The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships and before that Founding President and CEO of the Ontario Centres of Excellence. Previously he served as a senior Canadian diplomat in Nigeria, Mexico, Malaysia, Japan and the United States. He is currently President of MRInsights Inc. and is a member of the board of the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum, First Nations Major Projects Coalition Advisory Centre; and Buffalo Toronto Public Media (PBS-WNED); and former Chair of the Infrastructure and Commercial Projects Committee of Infrastructure Ontario and former Vice-Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on PPPs; and a Senior Fellow at the C.D. Howe Institute. He also served as Chair of the Canadian Smart Cities Challenge Jury and is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Katherine Starr**

Katherine Starr recently graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in May 2024, earning a First-Class Honours degree in Public Policy and Governance. Katherine received the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney Scholarship, the most prestigious merit award at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government. She was also the Valedictorian of her graduating class. She received the University Gold Medal, which is awarded to the student with the highest average in a Bachelor of Arts program. Katherine's professional experience includes serving as a policy intern at the Office of the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, working as a research assistant for over four years, and acting as a private tutor for her university's Centre for Accessible Learning. Katherine is passionate about Canadian public policy, international relations, and gender politics and policy. Since graduating, she has enthusiastically joined the AusCan Forum as an Executive Assistant while planning to attend law school in the fall of 2025.

**Norman Steinberg**

**Vice-Chair of BFL Canada**

Until 2019, Mr. Steinberg was a Partner in Norton Rose Fulbright, one of world's largest law firms where he was Global Chair and Chair of the Canadian firm. Mr. Steinberg is also Co-Chair of the Board of Dorel Industries, Director of Fiera Capital where he chairs the Nominating and Governance Committee, Director of ATCO where he chairs the Audit and Risk Committee and is a member of the Corporate Governance - Nomination, Compensation and Succession Committee, Senior Advisor of Persistence Capital Partners, Co-Chair of the Board Women in Governance, Chair of the Board of Governors of The McGill University Health Centre Foundation, Director and member of the Organizing Committee as well as former Canadian Co-Chair of the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum, Senior Advisor of Teneo, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Advisors of Alexa Translations.



## **Natalie Stirling**

**Executive Director, Strategy, Membership and Engagement,  
Business Council of Australia**

With over two decades of diverse experience in stakeholder relations, partnerships, brand advocacy and strategic communications, Natalie heads up the membership services function and engagement of over 130 Chief Executives of Australia's largest companies, and their representatives. Prior to this role, Natalie worked as a senior party official directing fundraising for both the Victorian and Federal Liberal Party of Australia, building on strong corporate and political connections before moving to the BCA following the Liberal Party's success at the 2019 Federal Election. Earlier in her career, Natalie managed business units in organisations covering corporate and major events, marketing, and sponsorship. Natalie holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Auckland.



## **Julie Sunday**

**High Commissioner of Canada to Australia**

Dr Sunday joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2005. Most recently, she served as Assistant Deputy Minister for the Consular, Security and Emergency Management Branch, and led Canada's consular policy and operations; travel advice; and international emergency policy, operations and response. She also spearheaded efforts to advance the Canada-led Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations. She was named Canada's first Senior Official for Hostage Affairs in October 2023 and has led diplomatic engagement to support the release of hostages abroad. At Global Affairs Canada, Dr Sunday has served as Director for Science, Technology and Innovation; Director General and Adviser to the Chief Financial Officer; Director General, Security and Emergency Management, and Chief Security Officer; and Director General for Pandemic Response (2021), a role in which she led the department's COVID-19 vaccine distribution campaign. She has also served at two of Canada's central agencies—the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and the Privy Council Office—and was director general of Clean Technology Innovation at Natural Resources Canada.



## **Bradley Sutherland**

**Senior Manager, Business Development at Air Canada**

Bradley joined Air Canada in 2016, managing some of Air Canada's top corporate travel accounts. Today, Bradley and his team look after Air Canada's new corporate contracting program and the Air Canada MICE (Meetings & Events) program. The team is also responsible for representing Air Canada in the B2B space across Canada. Bradley is proud to serve on the board of Meetings Means Business Canada, SITE Canada, Destination Canada Business Events Advisory Board, Alphabet Sports Collective and the Canada – India Business Council.



## COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

**Deirdra Tindale****Vice President, Crestview Strategy**

Mrs Tindale is a seasoned corporate affairs professional with extensive experience in the global resources sector. Previous to her new role at Crestview Strategy, Deirdra was Head of Corporate Affairs for Rio Tinto in Canada as well as the company's global Aluminium business. Deirdra spent 10 years in Australia working across all areas of Corporate Affairs, first with BHP and then Pilbara Ports Authority. She started her time with BHP in London, supporting exploration projects in West Africa. Deirdra started her career in politics as Director of Communications to cabinet ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Industry, and Canadian Heritage. She has a master's degree in political science from Université Laval and a bachelor's degree from Laurentian University. A passionate advocate for diversity, Deirdra was named the 2018 Gender Diversity Champion in NSW Mining. Deirdra lives in Montreal with her husband and daughter.

**Michelle Webster****Australia's Consul-General and Trade and Investment Commissioner**

Ms Webster is based in Toronto and oversees the consular teams in Toronto and Vancouver. She also leads the investment and trade directors to promote collaboration between Australia and Canada. Known for her strategic thinking, team leadership and stakeholder engagement skills, Michelle has represented Austrade and Australia in China, Japan, India and in the Federal Trade and Investment Minister's office in Canberra. She brings significant experience providing high-level strategic advice in corporate and government settings to advance Australia's strengths in trade and investment. Michelle joined Austrade after a career in financial and creative services in Australia, Canada and the UK, including with BT Funds Management, the Australian Film Commission, NBC and the BBC. Most recently, Michelle was based in Sydney serving as Austrade's NSW State Lead and previously as head of the Americas and Europe desk for the Government and Policy Division. She speaks German and Spanish.

**Tannis Wengel****Director of Events & Communications, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum**

Ms Wengel is a highly experienced marketing and events professional based in Canada, with over 20 years of expertise spanning the corporate, public, and non-profit sectors. Tannis' skills encompass strategic planning, project management, large-scale event execution, and fostering high-value corporate partnerships. Tannis has successfully developed and implemented national marketing strategies, led innovative fundraising initiatives, and managed complex, high-profile events, including global forums, corporate symposiums, award programs, and educational campaigns. Her work reflects a deep understanding of organizational alignment, ensuring that all initiatives drive meaningful impact and stakeholder engagement. Her leadership includes overseeing rebranding initiatives, enhancing organizational visibility, and fostering collaboration across diverse sectors. With a strong commitment to inclusivity and excellence, Tannis consistently delivers impactful results on both national and international levels. Her professionalism and innovation have earned her a reputation as a trusted partner in advancing strategic objectives across the corporate, public, and nonprofit sectors.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Photo/Video Release:** The 2025 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum, including its representatives and employees, is authorized to use photographs, videos, or other digital media ("photos") captured during the Forum dates in any of its publications, including web-based content and media, without compensation or other consideration. All photos will become the exclusive property of the Forum and will not be returned.

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#### Executive Assistant

**Katherine Starr**

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[kstarr@auscanforum.com](mailto:kstarr@auscanforum.com)

### Registration on Monday, February 17, 2025

will take place in the four seasons hotel, sydney during the following time in the ballroom foyer:

**3:00pm-5:00pm**

### Daytime Sessions, Breakfasts and Lunches will take place at:

#### Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney (Ballroom and Foyer)

199 George St.

The Rocks

Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: +[61 2 9250 3100](tel:61292503100)

Should you need any assistance throughout the Forum or have questions, please visit the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum Registration Desk. The registration desk will be open during the following times:

Sunday 16 February Ballroom Foyer – Main Lobby **3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

#### Monday 17 February

Ballroom Foyer – Main Lobby

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

#### Tuesday 18 February

Ballroom Foyer – Main Lobby

### Evening Off-Site Events:

#### Sunday, 16 February 2025

##### Forum Welcome Reception & AUSCAN Awards

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)

Harbourside Room on the 6th Floor

140 George St. The Rocks, Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: +61 2 9245 2400

#### Monday, 17 February 2025

##### Forum Opening (Day 1) Reception

Government House Sydney

Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone: +61 2 9228 4111

##### Forum Opening (Day 1) Dinner hosted by Team Canada Trade Mission (TCTM)

Art Gallery of NSW (Kaldor Hall)

Art Gallery Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Phone: +61 2 9225 1700

#### Tuesday, 18 February 2023

##### Forum Closing (Day 2) Reception and Dinner:

Australian National Maritime Museum

2 Murray St. Darling Harbour

Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Phone: +61 2 9298 3777

**Name Badges:** Each delegate registered for the Forum will receive a lanyard and name badge at the Registration Desk. (Please refer to the times and location above). This lanyard will be your official pass and must be worn to obtain entry to all Forum sessions, receptions and meals.

**Accommodation:** Should you have any queries with regards to your accommodation (including early check in and/or late checkout requests) please speak directly to the hotel staff. Please note that check-in time at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney is 3:00 p.m. and the check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

#### Media Partners:

AFR (Financial Review)

Crestview Strategy

"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."







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