

Speakers in Order of Appearance



ROCCO ROSSI

*President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

A successful entrepreneur and business executive, champion fundraiser, and dedicated public servant, Rocco Rossi joined the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) in 2018 as President and CEO.

Prior to joining the OCC, Rossi most recently served as President and CEO of Prostate Cancer Canada where he helped to advance the research, advocacy, education, and awareness of the most common cancer in men. Mr. Rossi also served as CEO of Heart and Stroke Foundation – one of Canada's largest non-profit organizations – overseeing consecutive years of record fundraising combining for over \$600 million in total and launching many new, life-saving initiatives.

His passion for public policy has led him to stand for election both for the position of Mayor of Toronto and for MPP.

Mr. Rossi has held senior positions at the Boston Consulting Group, TORSTAR, Labatt/Interbrew and MGI Software.

Rossi currently serves as a member of the Board and Audit Committee of TerraVest Industries. A past board member of United Way of Greater Toronto and other charities, Mr. Rossi has been an active community builder. In fact, in 2012 he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his Philanthropic and Community service.

A dedicated adventurer, Rocco has walked the legendary Camino de Santiago several times, cycled the 1900 km length of Yonge Street from Rainy River to Toronto, kayaked the 500 km from Toronto to Ottawa, and climbed to Everest Base Camp.

Mr. Rossi has a BA (Hons) in political science from McGill University and a Master of Arts in politics from Princeton University. He is married to his wife of 34-years, Rhonnie, and they have a 31-year-old son, Domenic John, who is a teacher.

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JOAQUIM BALLÈS

*Executive Vice President, Corporate Development and General Counsel,
Trudell Medical Limited
Chair, Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

Joaquim Ballès is the Vice President, General Counsel, & Corporate Secretary and member of the executive management committee of Trudell Medical Limited, a multinational, privately held, Canadian medical device parent company with head offices in London, Ontario. In addition to English, he is also fluent in French, Spanish, and Catalan. Past President of the Board of the London Chamber of Commerce and currently, Chair of the Global Business Opportunities Committee (London Chamber of Commerce), Vice Chair of the London Middlesex Immigration Employment Council (LMIEC), Board member of the London Community Foundation, and member of the London Medical Innovation & Commercialization Network Business Advisory Committee. He holds several degrees, including a law degree from Queen's University (Kingston, ON) Law School and a master in business administration from Western University (London, ON), Richard Ivey School of Business.



DR. LEAH E. COWEN

*Vice President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives
University of Toronto*

Professor Leah Cowen is Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives. She leads the University of Toronto's research and innovation enterprise, representing the University to key stakeholders in government, industry, and the community. She oversees the development and implementation of policies that improve research and innovation at U of T. Her research examines the biology and evolution of fungal pathogens, which have a staggering impact on human health. Her lab seeks to develop new strategies to thwart drug resistance and treat life-threatening infections. Professor Cowen is the Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics & Infectious Disease, Co-Director of the CIFAR Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities program, and the co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Bright Angel Therapeutics, a company that leverages state-of-the-art technologies for the development of novel antifungal therapeutics.

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KATARZYNA SLIWA

Partner

Dentons Canada LLP

A Partner at Dentons, Katarzyna manages the municipal, land use planning and development law group. She is the co-lead of the National Real Estate practice group, lead of Dentons' Canadian Smart Cities Thinktank and co-chair of Dentons Global Smart Cities Thinktank. She provides exceptional counsel to landowners as they weave through the approval process for development and redevelopment projects, and strategically guides clients in resolving complex land use challenges throughout Ontario. Katarzyna's diverse client base includes various landowners, such as development companies, builders, landowner groups, institutions, commercial and retail users, cannabis industry, restaurants and hotels. A vast part of her experience extends to a wide spectrum of development matters, including official plan and zoning by-law amendments, plans of subdivision, severance, variance and site plan matters. She frequently appears before the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT", formerly the Ontario Municipal Board and Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), as well as municipal councils and committees. Katarzyna is recognized by The Best Lawyers in Canada in Municipal Law and was named a Women's Leadership Initiative Champion by the Urban Land Institute (ULI). She also received the yBILD Leadership Award from the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). She is past chair of the Ontario Bar Association's Municipal Law Executive.

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DEREK GORING

*Chief Executive Officer
Northcrest Developments*

Derek Goring is the Chief Executive Officer at Northcrest Developments. He has 20 years of experience in real estate development, with a focus on large-scale master planned developments in the Greater Toronto Area. With roles in both public and private sector organizations, Derek has had the opportunity to work on some of Toronto's most important city-building projects.

Derek leads the development team at Northcrest, which is responsible for master planning the Downsview airport lands, securing all necessary municipal approvals, and working with partners to implement the project.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering & Management from McMaster University and an MBA from the University of Toronto. Derek has been actively involved with the Urban Land Institute for many years, and currently serves as a Global Governing Trustee, a member of the Technology and Real Estate Council, and with ULI Toronto as a member of the Advisory Board and the Governance Committee.



SHAH NAWAZ AHMED

*Vice President, Grid Software and Siemens Advanta
Siemens Canada*

With over 25 years of experience with Siemens in Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, Shah is currently the Head of Grid Software Business Unit and Siemens Advanta. He has held multiple positions across Siemens from Project Manager to Project Director and then leading a Business Unit in 4 continents and 5 countries. He is passionate about Energy Transition and a strong promoter of engineering excellence & innovation to create Grid of the Future, featuring Cyber Secured Grid Resiliency, efficient distribution management with the help of NWA (non-wire alternatives) and ultimately de-carbonization.

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DIMA ZREIK

Director, Investments

Canada Infrastructure Bank

Dima Zreik is a Director on the Canada Infrastructure Bank's investment team focused on financing the decarbonization of buildings across Canada. Bringing almost 20 years of experience in project finance, Dima is currently responsible for originating, structuring, and executing investments as part of the CIB's Building Retrofit Initiative.

Dima is a strong believer in sustainable financing and investing in climate-smart infrastructure projects that contribute to a smaller environmental footprint. In her previous role at HOCHTIEF PPP Solutions North America LLC, Dima's led equity investment for transportation and social infrastructure projects across North America.

Dima holds an MBA from the American University of Beirut and a certificate in Environmental Management from the University of Toronto.



SABENA SANDHU

Manager, Policy

Canadian Credit Union Association

Sabena Sandhu is the Manager of Policy at the Canadian Credit Union Association. In this role, she's the association's policy leader on federal files, which includes payments modernization, digital ID, privacy, cyber-security and open banking. Sabena also works closely with the CCUA's provincial government relations teams to maximize legislative and regulatory harmony across Canada's provincially regulated credit unions and federally regulated financial institutions. CCUA is the national trade association that provides services to Canada's 197 credit unions, caisses populaires, and regional Central organizations. Canada's credit union system controls over \$300 billion in assets and serves more than 6 million Canadians.

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NOLAN ANDRES

*Chief, Technology and Innovation
Kindred Credit Union*

When he founded PeaceWorks Technology Solutions in 1996, Nolan wanted to create a self-sustaining entity that would help charities and not-for-profits advance their missions through the appropriate and affordable use of technology. He didn't realize at the time that he was prototyping something people would later call "social enterprise". The need was obvious, the organizations were doing amazing work, and he happened to know a lot about technology. Seventeen years later, Nolan made the shift to Kindred Credit Union, and while the industry has changed, his theme remains the same. He still chooses to work with organizations that explicitly strive to create a better world and was drawn to Kindred because of its purpose. As a senior leader (Chief, Technology and Innovation) in a credit union that helps people align their values with their finances, Nolan works to catalyze positive change and inspire hope. Nolan is an avid and eclectic learner. He has two Computer Science degrees (B.Sc. – Saskatchewan, and M.Math – Waterloo) and a diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies, and he gets a kick out of a wide variety of things. He enjoys treehouse building, home renovating, repairing landfill-destined items, authoring software, astrophysics, gardening, choral singing, canoe tripping, birding, public speaking, and rollercoasters, as well as anything that involves seeing his wife and/or kids "hitting it out of the park" – which they do on a regular basis.

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JOANNE MCMILLIN

Sustainability and climate change executive

Joanne has been a corporate sustainability and climate executive and champion for over 14 years with experience in retail, buildings, and transportation.

Joanne looks to transform business through building strategies, understanding, and managing risks and emerging trends, and developing adaptation, mitigation and decarbonization plans across entire value chains.



TED SALTER

*Executive Director, Supply Chain Consulting, Advisory Services
KPMG Canada*

Ted has been centered on the development and implementation of enterprise transformation programs while serving in a diverse combination of consulting leadership and industry executive roles, that include North American sector leader for a global technology services firm, Chief Operating Officer for a multinational telecom technology provider and a regional Executive Vice President for a global Risk Management firm.

In these pursuits, he works with thought leaders and technology innovation providers as well as with several industry associations, innovation accelerators, policy developers, and academia. He and his team develop and execute new operating model innovations commencing with the early incubation period through to full-scale implementations and subsequent broader industry adoptions. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Schulich School of Business within their Master of Supply Chain program teaching Operation Design and Management and is an active participant in thought leadership initiatives with several industry associations regarding the improvement of Canada's global competitiveness.

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SHAKIR HUSSEIN

*Director of Traffic and Planning
407 ETR*

Shakir is Director of Traffic and Planning at 407 ETR - the world's first all-electronic and premier open-access toll highway. He has over 18 years of comprehensive Professional and Master's level academic experience in highway traffic, planning and operations and leads teams responsible for management, shareholder and grantor reporting, forecasting and infrastructure planning. He has been a catalyst on transportation analytics, IOT and digital transformation projects. His work is focused on ensuring that the highway remains safe and free flowing to support Ontario's economy and improve the daily lives of Ontarians.

He holds an Executive Master's of Business Administration Degree from Queen's University Smith School of Business, a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Toronto and is a certified Project Management Professional.



BRIAN KINGSTON

*President and CEO
Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association*

Brian Kingston is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA). The CVMA represents Canada's leading manufacturers of light and heavy-duty motor vehicles. Its membership includes Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, General Motors of Canada Company, and Stellantis (FCA Canada). Prior to joining the CVMA, Brian was Vice President of Policy, Fiscal and International, at the Business Council of Canada where he led the Council's economic policy priorities and global engagement. From 2009 to 2012 he served in the federal government with positions at the Department of Finance, Global Affairs Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the Treasury Board Secretariat, and the Privy Council Office. Brian is active in the non-profit sector including as past president of the Ottawa Economics Association and as a current board member of the Banff Forum.

Brian holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Carleton University, a master's degree in international affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and an MBA from Ivey Business School.

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DAVID KAMNITZER

*Global Services Lead, Intelligence Business Area
Arcadis*

David's career has spanned various leadership roles in transportation technology and smart cities. He has been instrumental to several large-scale programs in the fields of bus and rail operations, highway traffic management, traveler information and projects in the smart buildings and communities area. David spent the first 10 years of his career in the UK (12 years) and France (7 years), before returning to Toronto in 2013.

Some of his recent projects into systems integration for Metrolinx's Network Operations Centre, operational and technology scoping and requirement for Metrolinx's OnCorr rail expansion program, and management of Arcadis highway traffic management deployment in South Africa. In addition, David was internal lead for Arcadis IBI's Climate Action Task Force, with a mission to infuse climate thinking into all aspects of the firm's operations.

David holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Economics from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Regional and Community Planning from the University of British Columbia.

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DR. JOSIPA PETRUNIC

President and CEO

Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium

Dr. Josipa Petronic is the President and CEO of CUTRIC. She is leading the formulation of several national transportation technology trials related to zero-emissions transportation and “smart vehicles” innovation, including the Pan-Canadian Electric Bus Demonstration & Integration Trial, the Pan-Canadian Hydrogen Fuel Cell Demonstration & Integration Trial, and the National Smart Vehicle Demonstration Project.

Dr. Petronic has built up CUTRIC’s consortium to include more than 130 private and public sector companies and organizations across Canada. Previously, she served as the lead researcher in electric vehicle policy studies at McMaster University, and as a senior research fellow in the history and philosophy of mathematics at University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom in Science and Technology Studies. Dr. Petronic continues to lecture in Globalization Studies at McMaster University. In 2018, she was named as one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 by Bloomberg News and Canada’s Top Clean 50. In 2019, she was named Aspioneer Top 10 Influential Women Leaders. In 2020, she received an award in WXN’s Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards for her role in the Science and Technology industry.

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HON. ANDREA KHANJIN

*Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Government of Ontario*

Andrea Khanjin is Ontario's newly appointed Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Member of Provincial Parliament for Barrie-Innisfil.

At the age of four, Andrea immigrated to Canada with her grandparents to Barrie. She is proud to be the first female Progressive Conservative Jewish cabinet Minister in Ontario's history.

Andrea is no stranger to the environment portfolio. She formerly served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks from 2018-2022, and successfully introduced an Act to proclaim the Provincial Day of Action on Litter which takes place every second Tuesday in May each year.

She is also the longest serving Deputy Government House Leader for the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario since 2019. In addition, she has served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Deputy Government Whip.

Andrea lives in Innisfil with her husband Kevin and 3-year-old son Oliver.

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SHATHA QAQISH-CLAVERING

Director, Strategy and Operations, Climate Positive Energy
University of Toronto

Shatha is a strategic leader who brings over a decade of experience working in the clean technology, sustainability, and innovation eco-systems. She has experience managing large scale projects including an \$85 million government grant program to drive innovative climate change related technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She has led multidisciplinary teams and executed many commercialization plans and technology development strategies. She is also a mentor at various start-up incubators and accelerators including Cherie Blair Foundation, and Futurepreneur. She is an active panelist and speaker at industry events. Shatha is fluent in English, French and Arabic and has a PhD in Chemistry.

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HARNEET PANESAR

*Chief Operating Officer
Ontario Energy Board*

Appointed as the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Chief Operating Officer in 2021, Harneet Panesar is integral in advancing the regulator's role in the energy transition. His commitment to innovation, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency is modernizing the OEB and driving it to the rank of top-tier regulator.

Mr. Panesar supports Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) through his role as Executive Champion for the OEB's DEI Council and invests in the sector and his profession through academia. He is a part-time lecturer at Toronto Metropolitan University, and regularly delivers ad hoc lectures at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, York University's Osgoode Hall Law School and the Ontario Institute of Technology.

Mr. Panesar holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in electrical engineering and a Master of Business Administration, both from the University of Toronto. He received a Fellowship with Engineers Canada for his work with Professional Engineers of Ontario and service to the engineering profession. He also serves as on the University of Waterloo's Institute of Sustainable Energy Advisory Board and the Dean's Advisory Board at Queen's University.

Prior to joining the OEB, Mr. Panesar spent 14 years in progressively senior positions at Hydro One, most recently as Director of Strategy and Integrated Planning.

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FRANK D'ANDREA

*Vice President and Executive Lead, Enterprise Strategy and Energy Transition
Hydro One*

Frank D'Andrea is currently the Vice President and Executive Lead, Enterprise Strategy and Energy Transition at Hydro One.

Frank is accountable for leading organization-wide strategies and prepare for and driving energy transition and an intelligent grid for the future. He provides leadership and guidance to identify and pursue strategic and innovative transmission and distribution opportunities.

Frank has been with Hydro One for over 34 years. Frank is a professional accountant and gained his prior audit working experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining Hydro One, where he managed a number of audit engagements in the utilities, financial services and natural resources industries.

Frank is a member on the Regulatory Committees for the Ontario Energy Association and the Electricity Distributors Association. Frank was recently appointed the Ontario Energy Board's Energy [X] Change Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Directors with the Electricity Safety Association (ESA), and a former member of the Board for the Centre for Outsourcing Research and Education (CORE).

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SHITIZ AGARWAL

*Vice President, Power Systems, Sales and Operations
Schneider Electric*

Shitiz has over 18 years of experience in strategic planning, business transformation and operations management in the energy and digital automation market. He has held global positions at Schneider Electric in India, Africa, Hong Kong, Middle East, and currently leads Canada's Power Systems Business, sales and operations.

Shitiz is passionate about sales transformation and implementing market penetration strategy to drive profitable growth for the business, while improving efficiencies and providing customers with a connected experience. He believes in providing tailored solutions to customer and help them become more sustainable and digital.

Shitiz serves as an Advisory Board member at the Centre of Urban Energy at Toronto Metropolitan University and is an Executive Committee member with National Electricity roundtable. He is also actively engaged with the Mississauga Board of Trade and is a core member of their environment, sustainability, and infrastructure committee. Additionally, Shitiz is the executive sponsor of Schneider Electric's Toastmasters network to help employees drive their professional growth and development.

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SHARON BOLLENBACK

*Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026
City of Toronto*

Sharon is a seasoned Canadian sports executive with more than 30 years of experience in sport administration and event management. She has a proven track record of leading both strategy and execution for international and national high performance amateur sport, delivering tremendous results and success.

Sharon joined the City of Toronto in February 2023 as the Executive Director, FIFA World Cup Hosting 2026, where she is overseeing the newly-established FIFA World Cup 2026 Secretariat for this major historic sports event. In this role Sharon provides strategic direction, leadership, coordination, and oversight for all aspects of Toronto's hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and its many related activities.

Prior to joining the City of Toronto Sharon was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Special Olympics Canada (SOC) since 2013 and held senior leadership roles within the organization since 2007. Previously, Sharon was the General Manager for the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Toronto in 2007. Sharon has also held important fundraising and event management positions with the Canadian Olympic Committee, Skate Canada and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (Ontario Division) during her career. A recipient of The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Sharon holds a Bachelor of Recreation Studies from the University of Manitoba.

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David Sinton, PhD, PEng

*Professor and Academic Director, Climate Positive Energy
University of Toronto*

David Sinton is a Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering at the University of Toronto. He is the Academic Director of the Climate Positive Energy Initiative. Prior to joining the University of Toronto, Dr. Sinton was an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair at the University of Victoria, and a Visiting Associate Professor at Cornell University. He received a BSc from the University of Toronto, MEng from McGill University and his PhD from the University of Toronto. The Sinton group develops fluid systems for applications in energy. The group is application-driven and is currently developing fluid systems for CO₂ capture and conversion and to develop energy efficient industrial working fluids. The group previously developed a library of industrial fluid testing systems to improve the environmental and economic performance of energy operations, now commercialized through the startup Interface Fluidics Ltd. Dr. Sinton was selected to be an NSERC E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellow in 2016. He is also a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Engineering Institute of Canada, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Canadian Academy of Engineering, and Royal Society of Canada.

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DANIEL SAFAYENI

*Vice President of Policy
Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

Daniel Safayeni is Vice President, Policy at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) where he leads a team of analysts that sets the policy priorities and positioning of the largest provincial chamber of commerce in Canada through principled research and analysis. He is the founder and Co-Chair of the OCC's Workforce Development Council and Ontario Cannabis Policy Council. Prior to joining the OCC in 2018, Daniel held senior-level positions at the U.S. Department of State and the C.D. Howe Institute. Daniel is a Director at the Empire Club of Canada, a member of George Brown College's Program Advisory Committee and the Conference Board of Canada's Research Advisory Board.

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