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Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel

Vice President, International Government Affairs
Lockheed Martin International
CABC Chair

As the Vice President of Lockheed Martin International Government Affairs, Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel leads the corporation's diplomatic and senior executive customer engagements for the company's growing international business portfolio.

Nancy has nearly 30 years of experience as an industry leader in the international trade, global defense, and aerospace sectors, with expertise in political advocacy, exports, and trade policy. She joined Lockheed in 1992 where she directed the Corporation's lobbying efforts in support of the international priority and must-win programs on Capitol Hill and with the Administration.

Jennifer M Sloan

Vice President, Public Policy | Mastercard Canada
CABC Past Chair

Jennifer Sloan has extensive experience across all aspects of government, media and public relations, communications and external affairs. In addition to working for Target (Canada), York University and Vale (Inco) Ltd., she also worked with some of Canada's leading government and political figures including the Deputy Prime Minister as his director of communications. As the vice president of public policy at Mastercard Canada, Jennifer leads the development and management of the company's public affairs and government relations programs and is a member of Canada's business leadership team (CLT). She is also the North America Region Lead for Mastercard's Women's Leadership Network (WLN).

Jennifer is the chair of the Canadian American Business Council (CABC) Board of Directors. The current and first independent chair of Music Canada's Board of Directors; and is the immediate past chair of the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication's Board of Trust (BOT). Jennifer is a Vital Voices Global Ambassador. She previously served as the president of the Grady College Alumni Board, the president of the Canadian Club of Toronto, a director of G(irls)20 and was the chair-elect of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) Board of Directors.

In 2019 Jennifer was recognized with Mastercard's North America President's Award. She was also honoured with a 2019 Mastercard CEO Force for Good Award. She was inducted into the Grady Fellowship at the University of Georgia in November 2013; bestowed the Henry W. Grady Alumni Award at the University of Georgia and the Sigma Kappa National Colby Award in 2007; and a Minister's Citation for Foreign Policy Excellence in 1996.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

Tom Gannon

Chief Government Relations Officer | H&R Block
CABC First Vice Chair

Tom Gannon joined H&R Block in 2021. As Chief Government Relations Officer, he leads H&R Block's efforts on all legislative and related regulatory matters with national, regional, and local governments by providing policy direction, coordinating government affairs initiatives, and lobbying for the organization's interests. Mr. Gannon also leads the company's community relations efforts at the national and local levels.

Prior to joining H&R Block, Mr. Gannon spent 11 years at Mastercard leading their federal and state public policy teams. This included managing the lobbying team as well as executing Mastercard's strategic engagement plan on all issues of importance to Mastercard including core products, network operations, payment security, digital payments, innovation, acceptance, financial inclusion, new payment flows, privacy and fin tech issues. In addition, Mr. Gannon was responsible for spearheading consumer education initiatives which serve to bring financial literacy programs to under-served consumers and create more inclusive communities.

Mr. Gannon previously worked in government relations for Credit Union National Association where he focused on electronic payments, student lending, small business financing, cyber security, housing finance and regulatory restructuring.

Prior to that, he worked for American Hotel & Lodging Association where he managed the groups' grassroots and political programs, including HotelPAC, and focused on legislative issues important to the industry. He began his career on Capitol Hill working for Members of Congress from New York State.

Mr. Gannon holds a Political Science degree from Canisius College and an MBA from Johns Hopkins University. He currently resides in Arlington, VA with his wife and children.

Cathy Worden

Director, Government Affairs | Cisco Canada
CABC Second Vice Chair

Cathy Worden joined Cisco Canada as the Director of Government Affairs in April 2016. Prior to joining Cisco, Cathy spent three years as Vice President, Public Affairs in the Toronto office of H+K Strategies.

Previously, Cathy had over a decade of experience in government, serving in Ontario as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Economic Development and Innovation, Economic Policy Advisor to the Premier, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Finance and Chief of Staff to the Minister of Energy.

In Ottawa, Cathy held advisory roles to the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Industry and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. Born and raised in Ottawa, Cathy received her Honours Degree in Political Studies from Queen's University in Kingston. Cathy currently lives in Ottawa with her husband and young son.

Giselle Commissiong

Senior Principal/Global Lead, Service Lines | Hatch
CABC Third Vice Chair

Giselle Commissiong is a Senior Principal at the engineering consulting firm, Hatch. She entered this role in 2020 after spending eight years at EY as a Senior Manager and then Partner. Commissiong worked at Accenture for five years as a Senior Manager of Management Consulting before taking over as Senior Manager of Strategy. From 2005 until 2006, she was a Business Performance Manager at Barrick Gold Corporation. She began her career serving in a variety of engineering and business roles at Pratt & Whitney Canada, until she joined Capgemini as a Senior Consultant.

Commissiong received an Engineering degree from McGill University. She went on to complete her MBA at York University's Schulich School of Business in 2003, and obtained an Executive Master of Science, Health Economics and Policy Management from the London School of Economics in 2018.

Gabe Batstone

CEO | contextere
CABC Treasurer

Gabe Batstone is the co-founder & CEO of contextere. He brings to the company over two decades of experience implementing emerging technology across multiple industries on six continents. This has included industrial innovations for smart city, future soldier, digital oilfield and industrial AI. Contextere is a recognized World Economic Global Innovator as one of the world's most promising start-ups that are at the forefront of technological and business model innovation. Gabe serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian American Business Council (CABC) promoting continental trade policy. In 2014 Gabe founded 'Teagan's Voice' dedicated to protecting children's rights following the tragic death of his 8-year-old daughter.

Gabe holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts, specializing in Geographic information Systems, from Ryerson University in Toronto and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Baltimore. Gabe is a frequent public speaker, published writer, and has completed postgraduate studies at the United Nations Institute for Training & Research, University of Chicago, and Harvard Law School.

Joanne Zimolzak

Partner | Dykema
CABC General Counsel

Joanne Zimolzak guides clients in highly regulated industries through the substantive and procedural complexities of commercial litigation. She has a strong will to win at trial and appeal but is sensitive to clients' business concerns. A hard-fought defense verdict can be satisfying, but some of Joanne's most substantial victories happen when she spots problems before the client does and resolves disagreements quickly and amicably.

Based in Washington, D.C., and often appearing in state and federal courts across the United States, Joanne represents businesses of different sizes and industries in breach of contract, non-performance, and non-payment issues. In the insurance area, she helps carriers avoid or reduce significant exposure associated with bad faith allegations and professional negligence claims against insureds. Joanne also assists clients with navigating the federal and state regulatory environment, including litigating before administrative law judges and challenging administrative decisions in state and federal courts.

Megan Boyle

Senior Director of Government Affairs | Red Bull

Megan is currently Director of Public and Regulatory Affairs with Red Bull Canada. She has a demonstrated history of working in the food & beverages industry, having previously worked for the Canadian Beverage Association as the Senior Director of Government Relations.

Prior to that, Megan worked as a Senior Consultant with a focus in Health and Life Sciences and spent 8 years as a political staffer at Queen's Park working for two Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs).

Megan is active within the Toronto volunteer community and currently sits on several Boards including the Empire Club of Canada: Equal Voice Toronto, Harbourfront Centre and Canada's Ballet Jorgen.

Born in Vancouver, B.C., Megan and her family moved to the GTA at a young age and has called Toronto home ever since.

Kathryn Burton

Partner | Sparks Street Capital

A member of the Gesgapegiag Mi'kmaq tribe in Quebec, Canada, and a dual citizen of Canada and the United States, Kathryn R. Burton has been moving between worlds all her life.

She served as Chief of Staff to the City of Boston under Mayor Walsh (now US Secretary of Labor) and was the first Indigenous person to hold a Cabinet position in the city. She coordinated over 18,000 employees and a \$3.6B operating budget during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Chief of Staff for the State Treasurer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Kathryn handled major statewide initiatives, and designed and oversaw complex public debt and public finance structures, while ensuring that small business owners, women, minorities, immigrants, and veterans had access to the pioneering Small Business Banking partnership.

Ms. Burton advises a range of nonprofits, start-up companies, community organizations, and serves on the Canadian American Business Council.

Carolyn Chisholm

General Manager, External Affairs | Rio Tinto

Carolyn Chisholm is General Manager, External Affairs for Rio Tinto Canada. She has been with Rio Tinto since 2014 and is passionate about working in the space between the public and private sector, to drive positive change, committed to helping Rio Tinto strive to achieve ‘impeccable ESG.’ A proud mother of two beautiful daughters, Carolyn is also passionate about helping the next generation of young women find their path to professional fulfillment, sharing the lessons she has learned along the way in her decades of working in the natural resources industry, both in a corporate role for a multinational mining company, as well as a policy advisor to federal and provincial ministers.

In her role at Rio Tinto, Carolyn is responsible for the Canadian external affairs team, leading strategies for Rio Tinto at the federal and provincial levels. Prior to joining Rio Tinto, Carolyn worked for more than twenty years in external affairs and public policy, in the private sector as Vice President of the Natural Resources and Environment Group with a public affairs firm. She is a member of the Board of Directors of her local hospital, is a founding member of Women for Nature, and a Board member of the Terry Fox Research Institute. She is also an active board member of many industry associations on behalf of Rio Tinto, including the incoming Chair of the Mining Association of Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (First Class Honours) in Political Science from St. Francis Xavier University, and a Master’s in Public Administration from Carleton University. She is married and lives in Ottawa with her husband Ron and their two daughters, Mairi and Emily.

Gary Clement

Director, Government Relations | TD Bank Group

Gary Clement is the Director of Government Relations at TD Bank Group. Prior to joining TD Bank Group in the Government Relations Group in 2003, Gary had over a decade of experience in government at the provincial and federal levels including as a Senior Advisor for Public Relations in the Office of the Premier of Ontario; Special Assistant for Tour in the Office of the Minister of Long-Term Care and Senior of Ontario; Executive Assistant for the Executive Office at the Standards Council of Canada; and Special Assistant to the Federal Forestry Minister.

Gary holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political studies from the University of Guelph.

Peter DePasquale

Vice President, Government Relations | Keurig Dr. Pepper

Peter DePasquale is Vice President of Government Affairs for Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP), a North American beverage leader with annual revenue of more than \$14 billion and approximately 28,000 employees. KDP's portfolio of more than 125 owned, licensed and partner brands is designed to satisfy virtually any consumer need, any time. With nearly 15 years of experience leading advocacy strategies for Fortune 500 companies, DePasquale is responsible for advising KDP's leadership on public policy issues that present opportunities and challenges. His work advances public policies that enable profitable growth and align with and enable KDP's Drink Well. Do Good. corporate purpose, encompassing enterprise goals related to environment, supply chain, health and wellbeing, and people and communities.

Prior to joining KDP, DePasquale held senior roles with Nestle Waters, Frontier Communications, Praxair, and served as an aide to then Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney. DePasquale received his J.D., magna cum laude, from the New England School of Law and his B.A. in Corporate Communication from the College of Charleston. He has also completed executive education on "Leadership and Character in Uncertain Times" at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Lindsay Doyle

Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy | Google Canada

Lindsay Doyle (she/her) is on the Government Affairs and Public Policy team at Google Canada. She is passionate about tech policy and supporting the industry's broader efforts to promote equitable economic growth, innovation and most importantly, user trust and safety.

At Google, Lindsay focuses on key policy issues such as combating online harms and disinformation; AI/quantum; payments and financial services; trade and taxation. She also works closely with Google.org, the company's philanthropic arm, in prioritizing key partnerships with not-for-profit and charitable organizations across Canada.

Lindsay graduated from Trinity College at the University of Toronto with a degree in International Relations and Political Science while also working as a researcher at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She was a co-founder of the Canadian Advocacy Network, is on the Advisory Board of the Master of Public Policy Program at McMaster University and is a Member of the Board at MediaSmarts.

Janet Drysdale

Senior Vice President & Chief Stakeholder Relations Officer | CN

Janet Drysdale is a seasoned and versatile executive with nearly 30 years of cross-functional leadership in the transportation industry having held executive positions in Finance, Sustainability, Corporate Development, and Investor Relations. Ms. Drysdale was appointed Senior Vice-President & Chief Stakeholder Relations Officer in March 2023. She is responsible for driving CN's stakeholder engagement and communications strategies and has direct accountability for North American public and government affairs, media relations, corporate communications, and investor relations.

Ms. Drysdale has long been an advocate for the rail industry and North America's critical supply chains, increasing the representation of women in rail, and the transition to a low carbon economy. Ms. Drysdale is an independent director of Rumo S.A., Brazil's largest freight railway. She also sits on the boards of the Railway Association of Canada. In 2020, Ms. Drysdale was recognized by WGN as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in the executive leadership category.

Ms. Drysdale holds an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from Queen's University and an MBA from McGill University. In 2021, Ms. Drysdale completed the Global Competent Boards ESG program and certification (GCB.D).

Paul Dyck

Vice President, International Government Affairs | Walmart

Paul Dyck has served as Walmart's Vice President for International Government Affairs since October of 2015. He previously served as Senior Director for International Government Relations beginning in February of 2014. A trade policy and foreign affairs professional with over 15 years of senior-level government and private sector experience, Dyck previously served as Senior Counselor and later Senior Vice President of International Government Relations for APCO Worldwide between March of 2010 and January of 2014.

Between 2006 and 2009, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Europe and Eurasia desks of the International Trade Administration. At the Department of Commerce, he managed U.S. bilateral trade relationship with 52 countries, including the European Union and its member states, Southeastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Caucuses and Turkey. He engaged senior foreign officials, business leaders and other stakeholders to eliminate trade barriers, resolve commercial disputes, advocate commercial projects and ensure trading partners met obligations under trade agreements.

Previously, Paul served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of State and as Associate Political Director at the White House. Paul attended Austin College and the University of London.

Marlene Floyd

National Director of Corporate Affairs | Microsoft

Marlene Floyd is the National Director of Corporate Affairs at Microsoft. She has held this post since 2016.

Floyd concurrently runs a charity she co-founded called Dress for Success Ottawa. Prior to joining Microsoft, Floyd was the Director of Operations and Outreach for Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party, from 2013 to 2015. She had previously spent four years as a Principal at Earnscliffe Strategy Group.

Prior to entering consulting at Earnscliffe, Floyd was a Senior Regulatory Analyst at MTS Allstream. She also spent two years as a Policy Analyst at Industry Canada. Floyd began her career with the Liberal Party of Canada, working as a Special Assistant to Minister of Finance, The Hon. Paul Martin.

Floyd graduated from St. Thomas University with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science.

Hélène V. Gagnon

Chief Sustainability Officer | CAE

Hélène V. Gagnon is Chief Sustainability Officer and Senior Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement at CAE and is a member of the Executive Management Committee. She leads CAE's ESG strategy, sustainability, environment, and social impact to make the world a safer place. She is accountable for CAE's global communications with employees, media and other stakeholders as well as public affairs and government relations including R&D and Higher education institutions relations. She joined CAE in 2015 as Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Global Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Prior to her appointment at CAE, Ms. Gagnon worked for 11 years at Bombardier, the last eight as Vice President, Public Affairs, Communications, Corporate Social Responsibility and Achieving Excellence System for Bombardier Aerospace, at the time, the third largest civil aircraft manufacturer. From 2003 to 2007 she was Senior Director of Public Affairs at Bombardier Transportation.

She began her career in 1995 with the law firm Fasken as a specialist in environmental law. In 2000, she joined mining and metallurgy multinational Noranda Inc./ Falconbridge Limited (now known as Glencore) as Director of Public and Corporate Affairs for Québec.

Ms. Gagnon has always been very active in the community. She has been involved in more than 50 organizations including government advisory boards, pressure groups, cultural and charity organizations and business associations and was appointed to more than 25 Boards of Directors.

She is an independent member of the Board of Directors of Hydro Quebec since 2015 and Chairs the Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility Committee. She is also Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of The Montreal Airports (ADM) and has been a Director since 2014. She is Vice Chair of the Board of the Canadian American Business Council and has been a member of the Board since 2017. Hélène chaired the Board of Directors of Aéro Montréal, Greater Montréal's Aerospace Cluster (2015-2018) and the Board of the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada's (2012-2013) and is still a Board member of both.

She has been a speaker or panelist around the world on topics such as ESG, social impact, environmental policy, corporate social responsibility, public policy issues, crisis management, issue management and social media. She has garnered more than 70 scholarships, awards, distinctions and excellence prizes notably, the prestigious Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100™ award from the Women Executive Network in 2007 and the top 50 of Best Executives in Canada from the Globe and Mail Report on Business in 2022.

A graduate of McGill University with a degree in Civil Law (B.C.L.) and Common Law (LL.B.), Ms. Gagnon also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy from the London School of Economics (M.Sc.). She is a member of the Québec Bar, holds the professional certifications of Accredited in Public Relations (APR) and Fellow (FCPRS) from the Canadian Public Relations Society as well as the Global ESG Competent Boards Designation (GCB.D).

Tamon George

Co-Founder and CEO | Creative Theory Agency

Navigating the intersections of art, academia, and enterprise, Tamon flexes his creativity by leveraging research, intersectionality, and proven marketing philosophies. These are the trademarks of Tamon's creative practice. For Creative Theory, this means simply that in a shifting corporate landscape, Tamon is a scholar in targeting diverse perspectives.

Tamon completed his MBA in 2015, but as an addendum to an already robust skillset, completed certifications in digital strategy at Harvard University and Dartmouth.

As a practitioner Tamon has dedicated his professional career to cultural storytelling, leading branded content campaigns at pivotal cultural moments for global brands.

Steven Hogue

Director, Federal and Industry Relations | Pfizer

Steven joined Pfizer in 2004 and he's now part of the Global Policy & Public Affairs Team. Based in Ottawa, his work is focused on Pfizer's interactions and advocacy efforts with the Canadian Government on a broad range of issues from international & cross border trade; intellectual property; fiscal policies; biomanufacturing and life sciences strategies; pricing; procurement/access policies, regulatory, etc.

Steven represents Pfizer on different sectorial committees and associations, among them the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Life Sciences Strategic Council; BIOTECanada's Health Advisory Board; the Canadian American Business Council's Board of Directors; C.D. Howe Institute's Health Policy Council; Innovative Medicines Canada's Federal Affairs Operational Team; and the American Chamber of Commerce in Canada (AmCham).

Before joining Pfizer Canada in 2004, Steven Hogue served in the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada between 2001 and 2003, first as Special Advisor on Quebec and then as Deputy Director of Communications. For three years prior to that, he served as Special Assistant (Quebec and Atlantic) to the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Born in Shawinigan (Québec) and fully bilingual, Steven studied political science at Laval University and the City University of New York's Hunter College (1992-1994). He also started law studies at McGill University (1989-1991) and spent a year studying in Ecuador (1986-87) as part of an exchange program. Since 2016, Steven is an annual guest lecturer on demystifying the role of lobbying at the Université de Montréal's Department of Political Science Graduate Program. He is a certified chartered director (C. Dir.), having completed in 2020 a certification program in corporate governance with Laval University's College of Corporate Directors. He's a former member of the Board of Directors of the Banff Forum.

Craig Kelly

Senior Director, International Government Relations | ExxonMobil

Ambassador Kelly retired from the State Department in 2010 after over 25 years of service overseas and in Washington. As Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, he was “chief operating officer” for policy and management in 34 countries from Canada to Chile. Ambassador Kelly focused heavily on economic and commercial relations in the region and teamed with another senior official to negotiate the “Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas” program, a trade and development initiative involving 14 countries. He served as a trouble-shooter in several crises in the hemisphere, including during the aftermath of the coup in Honduras, where he had a lead role in brokering the accord that led to resolution of the crisis. He led the biannual migration talks with Cuba, and in February 2010 became the highest-level U.S. official in 15 years to visit Havana, where he met with leaders of civil society as well as the government.

From 2004 to 2007 Kelly served as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, where he was an active proponent of U.S. business, bilateral trade and investment and intellectual property rights. He worked with the Chilean government to launch the “American Academy of Science and Technology” in Santiago, dedicated to highlighting science cooperation between the two countries. He led his embassy team in negotiating the “Equal Opportunity Scholarships,” which send 100 Chilean students per year to earn advanced degrees in science and technology in the United States. He worked closely with the Chilean government on UN issues in the Middle East and Asia as well as the Western Hemisphere and hosted the President and First Lady during the APEC Leaders Meeting in Santiago in 2004. A strong proponent of sports diplomacy, Ambassador Kelly launched an official affiliate of Little League Baseball in Chile.

Ambassador Kelly was Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Colin Powell from March 2001 to June 2004. He supervised the Secretary’s staff and joined the Secretary in all his meetings with foreign leaders in Washington and in over 90 countries around the world. From 1999 to 2001, Kelly was chief of staff to Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering.

Ambassador Kelly has served in a variety of overseas posts. In Paris, he was chief of the political-military section, leading the embassy’s work on NATO, arms control, Bosnia and nuclear issues. He was an election observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1997. In Bogota, Colombia (1985-87) he dealt extensively with political and counter-narcotics issues. Kelly also served as political officer at the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican in the final two years of the Cold War. In Washington, his early assignments included senior Nicaragua desk officer and acting director of European Affairs at the National Security Council.

Ambassador Kelly holds numerous State Department awards, including the Presidential Meritorious Service Award for his work in Chile, and the Secretary of State’s Cordell Hull Award for Economics. Ambassador Kelly holds a B.A. (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has studied at Stanford University and the National War College in Washington. He holds a degree from the Ecole Nationale d’Administration (ENA) in Paris and was a Fulbright Scholar in Italy. His languages are Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. He and his wife Kimberly Fitzgerald Kelly have two children.

Kevin Kolevar

Vice President, Global Government Affairs | Dow

Kevin Kolevar is the Vice President of Global Government Affairs at Dow. Based in Midland, Michigan, Kevin leads federal, state and international government affairs and manages legislative, regulatory and political affairs for the Company.

Prior to joining Dow, Kevin was a founder and managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, an energy research, analysis and consulting firm that helps clients capitalize on energy sector changes through analysis of economic fundamentals, operational realities and politics.

Before starting ClearView, Kevin served as Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability at the United States Department of Energy (DOE). In that capacity, Kolevar led the Department's work to modernize the electric grid through next generation technologies; enhance the security and resiliency of critical energy infrastructure in the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; and facilitate the reconstruction and recovery of damaged or disrupted energy systems in the U.S.

Previously, Kevin served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Energy and supported and advised the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on policy, regulatory and legislative matters as well as Departmental program management. He also worked as a senior policy advisor to the Secretary on security and technology issues.

Kevin began his career on Capitol Hill, where he spent over ten years working for both Senator Spencer Abraham (Michigan) and Senator Connie Mack (Florida). He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan. Kevin is a member of World 50, a private community for CEOs and C-level executives at globally respected organizations to discover better ideas, share valuable experiences and build relationships that make a lasting impact.

Catherine Loubier

Executive / Advisor

A Montreal native, Catherine Loubier has spent half her career in the private sector and the other half in Canadian politics. Today, she is a sought-after senior advisor to the corporate world on issues ranging from public policy and governance, energy and infrastructure and Canada-United States relations. She is currently based in the U.S.

Catherine began her career in 1996, holding key positions in the private sector advising business leaders in various industry. Starting in 2006, Catherine spent a decade serving in Ottawa at the highest levels of Canadian politics. Most notably, she was Senior Advisor to Canada's 22nd Prime Minister, guiding his government on Quebec affairs and policy. She handled communications for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Canada and was key in organizing and attending official visits around the world, including in the United States, the European Union, Iraq, Afghanistan, India, Russia, the Canadian Arctic and many more.

Following her roles in Canadian politics, Catherine joined the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance in Paris to serve its Global CEO as General Manager of his office, and as Alliance Communication Global Director. In that role, she was a key part of the corporate strategy to positioning the Alliance as leader on electric, connected, and autonomous vehicles. The Alliance then employed nearly 475,000 people in 200 countries.

After directing the 2018 transition for Quebec's Premier's new government and filling the role of Deputy Chief of Staff, in 2019 Catherine was appointed Québec's most senior representative in the U.S., as Delegate General of Québec in New York. In this crucial political and trade role, she led important work to finalize of the largest ever renewable hydropower contract and transmission cross-border project, including a historic State regulatory change in favor of Quebec's clean energy. The contract between Hydro-Quebec and the State of New York is estimated at \$20B U.S.

Her work to support several companies from Quebec in the U.S., active in the green economy and seeking access to capital and buyers on the U.S. side, has been praised on both sides of the border. Her leadership to counter the U.S. imposition of tariffs on Canadian aluminium was also saluted. Catherine is a relentless supporter of cross-border trade and wholeheartedly defends Canada-U.S. relationships. She has co-founded the North American Rebound initiative.

She holds a Finance program certificate from the Harvard Business School, and a BA & Master's in Political Science from Université du Québec à Montréal. She is a member of the Women's Forum New York and Board member of the Council for Canadian American Relations.

Pauline McLean

SVP, External Relations, & Chief Legal Officer | Capital Power

Pauline leads the legal, regulatory, corporate compliance and external relations functions of Capital Power. She also provides support, risk management, and strategic insights to senior management and the Board of Directors.

Prior to joining Capital Power, Pauline spent 14 years working for the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) in senior legal and commercial roles. She led teams through the successful execution of greenfield initiatives, including programs to incent renewable electricity and new business models to procure and finance transmission infrastructure. Before joining the energy industry, Pauline practiced corporate and commercial law after graduating from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Laws.

Arielle Meloul-Wechsler

Executive Vice President | Air Canada

Arielle Meloul-Wechsler is Air Canada's Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer and Public Affairs, and has been a member of Air Canada's Executive team since 2013. She has oversight for all human resources and culture change initiatives across the company, labour relations, labour and litigation legal services, customer service training, as well as internal and external communications, government relations and community investments to support Air Canada's goal of becoming a Global Champion.

Under Arielle's leadership, Air Canada has been named for multiple consecutive years, one of Canada's Top 100 Employers, one of Montreal's Top Employers, one of Canada's Top Diversity Employers, in addition to being recognized as one of the Top 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures in Canada. She is also Air Canada's Champion of Official Languages, proudly focusing on the airline's commitment and efforts in offering the greatest range of services in both of Canada's official languages. Arielle also has oversight for both the Air Canada Foundation as well as Air Canada's CSR Reporting.

Before her work in Human Resources, Arielle was Assistant General Counsel and Director of Legal Services at Air Canada, where her practice groups included advising on corporate financing, reorganization, M&A and other corporate and commercial transactions, as well as leading Aeroplan's external legal team through its initial public offering. She practiced law at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg prior to joining Air Canada.

Arielle was elected President of Airline People Directors' Council (APDC), an exclusive global Airline HR Leaders' Network, in March 2017. She was recognized by the Women's Executive Network in 2019 as one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women in Business in the Corporate Executive category. She is a Member of the Conseil du Patronat, and she also serves on the Board of Directors of the Air Canada Foundation; the National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC), the Canadian American Business Council, and Element Fleet Management Corp.

Arielle holds a Civil Law degree from the Université de Montréal, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from McGill University, and has been a member of the Quebec Bar since 1993.

Mack Moore

Manager for International Government Affairs | ConocoPhillips

David (Mack) Moore advises and represents ConocoPhillips on global energy issues as Manager for International Government Affairs and Political Risk. In this capacity, he also serves as Board Chairman of the US-Libya Business Association. Mack has over 15 years' experience analyzing and advising on energy market and policy issues, based in Washington, DC.

Prior to his work with ConocoPhillips, he served as Director for Energy on the White House National Security Council, advancing policy initiatives and advising the Obama Administration on energy, climate, and economic security issues. He also worked as an energy security analyst for the US government, as Vice President with the Rapidan Group energy market consultancy, and as Director for Energy and Emissions Policy Analysis with Tudor Investment Corporation. Mack earned his Master of Arts from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC and his Bachelor of Arts with Honors and Distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wendy Noss

President | Motion Picture Association, Canada

Wendy Noss is the President of the Motion Picture Association-Canada and leads government relations, policy development, and advocacy on behalf of the MPAA studios and their domestic affiliates. Wendy has been with the association since 2006, creating strategic alliances to further the health of the film and television industry and foster an environment of respect for the creative industries in Canada.

Wendy is a respected government and public affairs executive with more than two decades of experience representing creative industries and intellectual property owners. Prior to joining the MPA, she was a practicing lawyer focusing on intellectual property law and policy, and in advancing the rights of international rights holders in the digital environment. She previously acted as Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for the national copyright collective, representing authors and publishers.

Wendy received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Western University and her J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. She works as an effective partner with film and television stakeholders across the country and has been selected as a trusted advisor to serve on various government boards, councils, advisory groups and organizations.

Clint Odom

Vice President, Strategic Alliance and External Affairs | T-Mobile

Clint Odom serves as the Vice President, Strategic Alliances & External Affairs for T-Mobile. He previously served as Senior Vice President of Policy & Advocacy and Executive Director of the Washington Bureau with the National Urban League.

Prior to this, he worked for U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris of California for more than two years as Legislative Director. From January 2015 until December 2016, he was a Democratic General Counsel and Policy Director with the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. From 2013-2014, he was the Policy Director with the Office of Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel in Washington, DC. Odom also worked in the U.S. Senate for four years.

From 2012-2013, he served as Deputy Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, prior to which he served as his Legislative Counsel for three years. He also served as Principal of Odom Consulting from 2008-2009, as well as Vice President and Director of Verizon from 2001-2008. From 1996- 2001, Odom was the Chairman's Legal Advisor & Staff Attorney with the Federal Communications Commission. From 1994-1996, he worked as Litigation Associate with Dow Lohnes PLLC, prior to which he was a Law Clerk with U.S. District Court Judge Henry T. Wingate for one year. Odom holds a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he graduated in 1993. He also holds a B.A. in Political Science from the Louisiana State University.

Joanne Pitkin

Senior Manager, Digital Policy | Amazon

Joanne Pitkin is the Senior Manager of Digital Policy at Amazon, where she has been instrumental in shaping digital policy initiatives since July 2022. Prior to her current role, she served as Vice President of Corporate & Public Affairs at Argyle in Ottawa and manager of communications at Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI)

She holds an Honours B.A. in Communications and Business Administration from the University of Ottawa.

In her spare time, Joanne demonstrates her commitment to her community through volunteering with various organizations such as La Gouvernance au Féminin - Women in Governance.

Pierre Seïn Pyun

Vice President, Government Affairs | Bombardier Inc.

Pierre Seïn Pyun was appointed Vice President, Government Affairs in October 2011. As such, he leads government relations activities in Canada for Bombardier Inc.

A lawyer by training, Pierre has significant background in international trade, having served with the Canadian federal government from 1998 to 2011. Prior to joining Bombardier, Mr. Pyun managed sector practices and developed and implemented global commercial strategies for the Canadian government in Ottawa. Furthermore, he worked at Canadian diplomatic posts in China from 2001-2009, including as a Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

Mr. Pyun holds degrees in Common Law and Civil Law from McGill University and completed a Certificate in International Commerce at the University of Montreal. He is fluent in English, French, Mandarin and Korean.

Mr. Pyun serves on the board of directors of a number of associations, including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, Canada-India Business Council, Canada Arab Business Council and Canada China Business Council.

Edward Rihn

President and CEO | Berkshire Hathaway Energy Canada

Edward W. Rihn has more than 25 years of experience, including business development, corporate development, government relations, indigenous relations, customer service, consultation, project management and construction management. His career spans industrial gases and chemicals, hydrogen, pipelines, renewable energy, and electric transmission.

Mr. Rihn holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Clarkson University and an executive master's in technology management from the University of Pennsylvania. He currently serves as a board director for YMCA Calgary in the role of vice-chair.

Alexander Russ

Senior Advisor, Global Public Policy
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)

Alex serves as the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) chief advocate on international government relations. This work includes developing and coordinating AEM's positions on U.S. and international trade and investment policy, helping companies identify and overcome legislative and regulatory barriers to growth, developing and managing relationships with senior U.S. and foreign government officials and leading AEM's Canadian advocacy efforts.

Alex acts as an AEM spokesperson on trade matters and international affairs and has been quoted in the Financial Times, Reuters, Toronto Star and other industry and trade publications.

Prior to joining AEM, Alex was a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives handling trade, foreign affairs, transportation, environment and energy policy. While working on the Hill, Alex also staffed a Member of Congress on the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Alex holds a Master of Science from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in Canada.

Pete Sheffield

Chief Sustainability Officer | Enbridge

Pete Sheffield is Chief Sustainability Officer and Vice President of U.S. External Affairs at Enbridge, responsible for enterprise wide public policy, sustainability strategies and reporting, community investment, and government relations federally and across the 40 states in which the company operates.

Sheffield was previously Director of U.S. External Affairs to Enbridge and served as vice president of energy policy and government affairs for Spectra Energy Corp, overseeing the company's government relations activities and public policy. He joined Duke Energy in 2002, serving as director of external relations. Prior to that, Sheffield was a press secretary to the United States House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce, serving as primary spokesman and senior advisor to two chairmen.

Sheffield holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden Sydney College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Lena Trudeau

CEO | Fu Associates

Lena Trudeau is the Chief Executive Officer of Fu Associates, Ltd., a technology firm that provides data analytics and digital advisory services to public good organizations.

Previously Lena served as the CEO of U. Group, a technology with deep expertise in cloud-native development, advanced analytics, machine learning, and augmented reality. Prior to ByteCubed, Lena was Co-Founder and CEO of Nuage Cloud Strategies, a firm focused on digital adoption and government modernization. Concurrently, Lena served as a Senior Advisor to the Canadian Digital Service (CDS) at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

Lena led the Amazon Web Services Public Sector business in Canada where she helped government, education, health care, and not-for-profit organizations find better, more cost-effective ways to serve their customers. Lena also led public sector global expansion efforts specifically focused on scientific computing, open data, and educating the next generation of IT professionals.

Lena served as member of the U.S. Federal Government's Senior Executive Service. As Associate Commissioner at the General Services Administration (GSA), she was mandated to leverage technology to transform business operations.

At the Office of Strategic Innovations, Lena spearheaded the creation of 18F, an in-house digital delivery team that builds effective, user-centric digital services. She also directed the Presidential Innovation Fellows, a highly competitive program that pairs government experts with private sector entrepreneurs to tackle the nation's biggest challenges.

Prior to entering government, Lena served as Vice President, overseeing service delivery at the National Academy of Public Administration, a non-partisan, congressionally chartered organization that assists government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations.

Lena is a frequent commentator, speaker and advocate on government modernization, digital adoption, digital inclusion and women in technology. She is a two-time recipient of the prestigious Federal 100 award, which recognizes government and industry leaders who have played pivotal roles in the U.S. federal government IT community, and was named one of FedScoop's Top 50 Women in Tech. She received a Master's in Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Ottawa.