CSPC Budget Symposium 2024: Speaker Bios

Keynote speakers:

Dave Watters, *Founder and Strategic Advisor, Global Advantage Consulting Group Inc.*

David Watters worked for 30 years in the Canadian Public Service, including a dozen years as an Assistant Deputy Minister at Industry Canada, Treasury Board Canada and Finance Canada.

In 2002 David established the Global Advantage Consulting Group Inc. (Ottawa) and is now the President and CEO of this strategic management consulting firm. The firm has completed over 650 contracts for clients specializing in: analyzing and "mapping" complex public policy economic systems; creating collaborative business models for service delivery; aligning operational processes among networked organizations for enhanced decision-making; and designing growth strategies for organizations, particularly in the areas of research and technology development, innovation, commercialization and trade. David holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Law degree in corporate, commercial, and tax law from Queen's University Law School. He was also an adjunct Professor for seven years at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa.

Ömer Kaya, *CEO, Global Advantage Consulting Group Inc.*

Ömer Kaya is the Chief Executive Officer at the Global Advantage Consulting Group. As CEO, Ömer is responsible for every aspect of the business to support public and private sector organizations including overall business strategy and planning, team leadership, management of processes, programs, and projects, as well as client relationships and partnerships. He has over 5 years of experience in the management consulting industry. Ömer had previously worked in the academia holding teaching and research positions, and the private sector in sales, marketing, and financial services. He holds a Master of Arts degree from the Faculty of Public Affairs at Carleton University.

Industry panel:

Jeanette Jackson, *Chief Executive Officer, Foresight Canada*

Jeanette is an experienced CEO and entrepreneur with broad experience in strategy, innovation, business development, marketing, and operations. As the CEO of Foresight, Jeanette has led rapid growth, transforming a regional organization into Canada's largest cleantech accelerator. Since 2018, under her leadership, Foresight has expanded accelerator programs, built a vibrant Industry Innovation Program, and launched a sectoral approach to accelerate cleantech innovation. Jeanette is a frequent speaker, media guest, and advisor to innovators, industry, investors and government.

Prior to joining Foresight, Jeanette was founding CEO of Light-Based Technologies, which she built into a scaling enterprise with venture capital support and a successful personal exit in 2011. As President of The Brag Company, she oversaw the complete restructuring of the business and sale of the company in just two years. As an Executive in Residence with Foresight, Jeanette advised more than 25 ventures in several markets including bio-energy, electric vehicles, smart buildings, water tech, robotics, and wind.

Michele Lajeunesse, *Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Policy at TECHNATION*

Michele is currently serving as the Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Policy at TECHNATION (formerly ITAC). She is no stranger to the IT and business community, having worked both in the public and private sectors, and has held vice president-level positions at a number of organizations, including the Institute on Governance, as well as leading GTEC for three years. She has also provided her expertise in business process transformation, organizational change strategies, effective business cases, and alternative service delivery channels to numerous federal public sector ADM and DM level initiatives. A true 'serial connector,' Michele is committed to working with government and industry to drive Canada's digital adoption, and advocates for women in technology through her participation in various ICT associations.

Namir Anani, *President & CEO, Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC)*

Namir Anani is the President and CEO of the Information and Communications Technology Council (ictc-ctic.ca), he is the chief strategist and driving force in bringing ICTC's world-class centre of expertise and services to industry, education and government; shaping Canada's digital advantage in a global economy. Before joining ICTC, Namir previously led Policy Development & Research at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

He has also held several executive leadership roles in both the private and public sectors including the Department of Canadian Heritage (Director General & CEO), CGI consulting, Nortel, and Novartis (Switzerland). Mr. Anani's experience extends to; strategic policy development and implementation, learning and capacity building, business transformation, national/international strategic alliances, economic and market research, and technology innovation.

He has also held numerous board positions, and is a frequent keynote speaker at national and international conferences on the digital economy. Namir holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Electrical Engineering from the University of Salford (UK) as well as a Professional Engineer designation in Ontario (P. Eng.).

Karen Greve Young, CEO of Futurpreneur

Karen Greve Young is CEO of Futurpreneur, a national non-profit that has supported the success of 17,700+ diverse, young entrepreneurs launching businesses that contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development in communities across Canada. Karen previously worked at Toronto's MaRS Discovery District and in San Francisco, New York and London, at organizations including Bain & Company, Gap Inc. and the UK's Institute of Cancer Research. She serves as Chair on the Board of Ovarian Cancer Canada. She holds an MBA from Stanford University and a BA in Economics from Harvard University.

Vik Pant, *Chief Data Scientist of PwC Canada*

Vik is the Chief Data Scientist of PwC Canada, where his primary focus is to champion PwC's Data Science and AI capabilities in the market and within the firm. He proactively advances the value propositions of PwC's differentiated portfolio of Data Science and AI services, including Generative AI solutions, to clients.

As a Partner in the Data and Cloud practice, he collaborates with clients to co-create the most value for their organizations through synergistic combinations and innovative applications of PwC Canada's capabilities in Data Science and AI with cloud services from AWS, GCP, and Microsoft.

Before PwC, Vik served as the Chief Scientist and Chief Science Advisor for Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). He founded and scaled the "Digital Accelerator" – an innovation platform for

designing and launching AI-driven software products. He also represented NRCan on executive-level science and technology committees in the Government of Canada.

Additionally, Vik held multiple strategic field and corporate roles in global software firms, including SAP, Oracle, and Open Text. He developed data-driven solutions and digital tools allowing companies to thrive in their fields and gain competitive advantage. Vik also led many high-value client engagements, showcasing how AI-powered intelligence can solve unique business challenges.

Vik earned a doctorate from the Faculty of Information in the University of Toronto. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Geomatics at the University of Ottawa.

Ryan Greer, *Vice President Public Affairs and National Policy, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME)*

Ryan has spent the last 15 years in senior public policy roles in Ottawa developing a sophisticated understanding of the Canadian policy and regulatory frameworks and the political forces shaping them. He has provided strategic communications and public affairs advice to some of Canada's largest companies as a consultant at Hill and Knowlton Strategies and Senior Director at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. He also spent nearly a decade working as a senior advisor to several federal cabinet ministers and in the Prime Minister's Office.

Academia panel:

Dominique Bérubé, *Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies at Concordia University*

Since September 2022, Dr. Dominique Bérubé is the Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies at Concordia University, leading major initiatives in innovation around sustainability and entrepreneurship. Between 2015 and 2022, she held the role of Vice-president of research at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, leading the development of social sciences and humanities research as well as tri-agency institutional programs. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the development of the Canada Research Chair EDI Action plan and the creation of the New Frontiers in Research Fund, major initiatives that transformed the research ecosystem.

Dr. Bérubé is an engineer trained at École Polytechnique and holds a doctorate in environmental sciences from the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Chad Gaffield, *CEO U15 Canada*

Educated at McGill University and the University of Toronto, Dr. Chad Gaffield has been at the leading edge internationally for more than three decades in the field now known as Digital Humanities. Along the way, he has become one of Canada's leading historians of the deep cultural, social, and economic changes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Alice Aiken, *Vice President Research & Innovation at Dalhousie University*

Dr Alice Aiken is the Vice President – Research & Innovation at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, she was formerly the Dean of the Faculty of Health at Dalhousie. She is a full Professor in the Faculty of Health. Her research focuses on health systems transformation and evidence-informed policy-making with a concentration on military and Veteran health. Dr. Aiken is on the Board of the Halifax Partnership and the Departmental Audit Committee for the Canada Border Services Agency. She holds her ICD.D designation from the Institute for Corporate Directors.

Thomas Bailey, *Co-President, Ottawa Science Policy Network*

Thomas Bailey, a PhD student in Physics at uOttawa, is passionate about science policy and advocating for the next generation of researchers. His research focuses on novel methods of light measurement. Beyond the lab, Thomas helps lead the Ottawa Science Policy Network, with one priority working to improve support for graduate students and post-doctoral scholars. He was an author of OSPN's report on graduate student finances in Canada and has worked to raise these issues with policy makers. He has also assisted Support Our Science, serving on their executive council.

Les Jacobs, *Vice-President, Research and Innovation at Ontario Tech University*

Les Jacobs, PhD, FRSC, is the Vice-President, Research and Innovation at Ontario Tech University, which he joined in 2019. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC), appointed in 2017 in recognition of being one of the world's leading data scientists for innovative large scale research projects on the justice system and human rights. Previously, he held faculty positions at UBC, York University and the University of Oxford. He has also held visiting academic appointments at the European University

Institute, Wilson Center for International Scholars, Georgetown Law Center, Waseda University Law School, Emory University, Harvard Law School, Wolfson College, and University of California, Berkeley. He completed his PhD at Oxford University. He has served on many public sector boards and undertaken applied data science research and policy analysis for many private and public sector organizations.

Lisa Kalynchuk, *Vice-President Research and Innovation at University of Victoria*

Dr. Lisa Kalynchuk is an innovative and inspiring leader who always seeks to push the boundaries of what is possible. She was appointed to her initial five-year term as Vice-President Research and Innovation at UVic on July 1, 2019, and reappointed for a second term in December 2023. Prior to this appointment, she was the Associate Vice-President Research from 2017-2019.

Dr. Kalynchuk holds a BSc in Psychology from the University of Alberta and an MA and PhD in Neuroscience from the University of British Columbia. She completed postdoctoral training at the Douglas Hospital Mental Health Institute at McGill University. Dr. Kalynchuk is an active researcher who is known internationally for her work on chronic stress, the neurobiology of depression, and the development of biomarkers for mental health disorders.

Before joining UVic, Dr. Kalynchuk was a tenured Professor and Canada Research Chair in Behavioral Neuroscience in the Department of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. She also served as Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Special Advisor to the Provost and contributed to academic governance as Director of the Neuroscience Research Group, Chair of Senate and Chair of the University Planning and Priorities Committee. Prior to her work at USask, Dr. Kalynchuk was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Psychology at Dalhousie University, where she held an NSERC University Faculty Award.
Dr. Kalynchuk brings great passion and energy to her work as a senior leader. She takes a consultative, team first approach and is committed to inclusion and diversity of thought. She has led several major strategic planning exercises, including the development of Aspiration 2030, UVic's research strategy, and been a driving force toward doubling UVic's research revenues and success in several major national funding competitions.

Nancy Ross, *Vice President Research at Queens University*

As Vice-Principal Research at Queen's University, Dr. Ross partners with the research community to advance the University's research mission. She is also a faculty member in the Department of Public Health Sciences where she is as a recognized expert in population health. Dr. Ross obtained her B.A. and M.A. degrees in Geography from Queen's University and received her PhD in Geography from McMaster University. She spent four years working at Statistics Canada's in research positions that included a postdoctoral affiliation with the Population Health Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. She joined McGill's faculty in 2001 and served as Associate Vice-Principal (Research) from 2016-2021.
In 2023, she was named the recipient of the Melinda Meade Distinguished Scholarship Award in Health and Medical Geography.

Non-profit panel:

Peter Serles (Panel Moderator), *Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)*

Dr. Peter Serles is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and a senior volunteer with the Canadian Science Policy Centre. Peter completed his PhD in Nano-Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto where he was a Vanier Scholar and Connaught PhD Fellow. Peter's research on novel nanomaterials has been widely published in forums including Nature and Science, and he is a passionate advocate for evidence-informed decision making in his roles as an advisor to University leadership and in convening Canadian policy networks.

Sarah Laframboise, *Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy*

Sarah Laframboise is the Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy, a leading fact-driven not-for-profit advocating for the transparent use of evidence in decision-making in Canada. She brings nearly a decade of experiences in science communication, policy and advocacy. Sarah has been a long-time volunteer and previously staff at the Canadian Science Policy Centre, and has published the last 4 editions of the annual Canadian Science Policy Magazine.

Cate Murray, *President & CEO, Stem Cell Network*

Cate Murray is President and CEO for Canada's Stem Cell Network. Cate is an experienced not-for-profit executive with a background in government relations, public policy and communications. Cate has been leading and growing the Stem Cell Network

since 2017. As the head of SCN, she has secured $117M in funding that is directly leading to cutting-edge research for the benefit of patients, contributing to the growth of Canada's regenerative medicine sector, and ensuring next generation talent have the skills and expertise needed to compete on the global stage.

Cate began her career in the mid-90s as a Ministerial policy advisor. After leaving politics she joined the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) where she combined her knowledge of government and communications to support Canada's health research community. Building on her experience at CIHR, Cate joined the Council of Canadian Academies as a member of the senior leadership team where she worked with over a dozen expert panels to raise awareness of their work and see its adoption into public policy.

Today, Cate leads a team of ~20 talented professionals, Board members and stem cell and regenerative medicine scientists and scholars who are passionate about delivering Canadian innovations to patients.

Cate has an Honours Degree from King's College at the University of Western Ontario. She is a mother of two daughters and stepmother to two sons. Cate is passionate about STEAM and lives by the mantra that every great scientist needs an arts major.

Micheline Ayoub, *Executive Director at Sustainability in the Digital Age & Director at Future Earth Canada Global Hub*

Micheline Ayoub recently joined as the Executive Director of Sustainability in the Digital Age and the Director at Future Earth Canada Global Hub. She brings over 20 years of experience promoting science-based evidence and cutting-edge technology on a local and international scale. Micheline's diverse career experience spans work with the federal government, private entities, and in academic research. Her expertise ranges from intellectual property, data management and governance, to multi-stakeholder partnership development, to the use of AI for multi-omic data analysis in sustainable agriculture. She is known for her capacity to identify relevant synergies and forge effective partnerships with multiple national and international stakeholders based on cooperation and shared goals.

John Hepburn, *Chief Executive Officer, Mitacs*

Before becoming CEO of Mitacs in 2020, John Hepburn was the Vice-President of Research and Partnerships at CIFAR (the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research), a

Canadian-based global research organization. For almost two decades, John advanced the capacity of UBC's research portfolio, creating new institutional partnerships in China, India, and around the world. His previous positions at UBC include Vice-President, Research and International, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Head of the Department of Chemistry. Before moving to UBC, he was at the University of Waterloo, as a professor of Chemistry and Physics. Prior to that, he was a NATO postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley.

With a PhD in Chemical Physics from the University of Toronto, John is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the American Physical Society, and a former Canada Council for the Arts Killam Research Fellow, and Sloan Foundation Fellow. He has served on numerous national and international advisory committees and boards, and is currently on the boards of the Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping and WestGrid (Board Chair), the executive committee for the France-Canada Research Fund, C.D. Howe Human Capital Policy Council, the expert panel on the Future of Work for the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, the National Killam Program Advisory Board, and award selection panels for the National Research Council Canada (NRC), Falling Walls Foundation (Berlin), Gairdner Foundation, and the Canadian Science Policy Centre (CSPC). As CEO of Mitacs, John has expertly navigated the organization through a period of tremendous growth as well as helped it thrive despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.