

21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Ontario October
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

09:00 Keynote

Vicky Eatrides began her career practicing regulatory law at a national law firm in 2000. She joined the federal public service in 2005 and held a number of senior executive positions at the Competition Bureau, Natural Resources Canada, and the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Vicky has experience across a variety of areas, including law enforcement, strategic policy, economic analysis, legislative affairs, and international relations.

Vicky held several leadership roles at the Competition Bureau over a twelve-year period, including Senior Deputy Commissioner in charge of enforcing criminal and civil provisions of the Competition Act. During her time at the arm's-length organization, she developed expertise in telecommunications, broadcasting, and new technologies by leading merger reviews, civil and criminal investigations, and regulatory interventions.

Vicky taught Competition Law courses at Queen's University and has spoken at numerous domestic and international conferences and events. She is a member of the Law Society of Ontario.

09:30 Panel

International Trade, CUSMA, and Canadian Sovereignty

Moderator: Peter Grant until his retirement in May 2020, Peter Grant was Senior Counsel at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, where he practiced law for over 50 years and headed up its Communications and Entertainment Law Group. Mr. Grant pioneered the field of communications law in Canada, and his practice was substantially devoted to this field, including broadcasting and cable television, pay and specialty programming services, multimedia, copyright collectives and cultural industries, both in Canada and abroad.

In addition to his domestic broadcast practice, Mr. Grant has advised a number of foreign governments and public broadcasters on broadcast matters, including the BBC (Britain) and RAI (Italy). In 1999, he was retained by the Government of Sri Lanka to recommend the form of new broadcasting legislation in that country.

In 2013, the Porcupine's Quill published Mr. Grant's autobiography, entitled *Changing Channels: Confessions of a Canadian Communications Lawyer*.

Mr. Grant was the Broadcasting Arbitrator for Canada under the Canada Elections Act from 1992 to 2020.

Mr. Grant was one of six experts appointed by the federal government to the Broadcasting and

Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel in 2018. That Panel issued its Final Report on January 27, 2020, entitled Canada's Communications Future: Time to Act. Based on that report, the Government enacted legislation in 2023 to require online streamers to contribute to Canadian production.

Colin Robertson A former Canadian diplomat, Colin Robertson is a Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and host of their Global Exchange podcast. A frequent media commentator, he is a contributing writer to Policy Magazine.

He is an Honorary Captain in the Royal Canadian Navy. He is a member of the Alphen Group of strategists as well as Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs Expert Group on Canada-US Relations.

He is Executive Fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University.

Previously, Robertson was a senior advisor to Dentons US LLP (formerly McKenna, Long and Aldridge LLP) working with the Business Council of Canada.

He served on the board of Canada World Youth including as chair and vice-chair. He is a long-time member and former president of the National Capital Branch of the Canadian International Council. Robertson previously served on Carleton University's President's Advisory Council, the NPSIA Advisory Council, the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy, North American Research Partnership, the board and then advisory council of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and two terms on the DND Defence Advisory Board.

A career foreign service officer from 1977-2010, he served as first Head of the Advocacy Secretariat and Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington and Consul General in Los Angeles, with previous assignments as Consul and Counsellor in Hong Kong and in New York at the UN and Consulate General.

Robertson served as president of the Historica Foundation. He was editor of *bout de papier: Canada's Journal of Foreign Service and Diplomacy* and president of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers.

Robertson has been awarded the King Charles III Coronation medal, Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Alberta Centennial Medal, Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and the Canadian Forces Decoration.

Laura Dawson Prior to her appointment to the Future Borders Coalition, Dr. Dawson was the North America Lead at the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Institute. Other major posts include Director of the Canada Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., Founder of Dawson Strategic, and Senior Economic Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Canada. She is also on the teaching faculty at the Master of Public Policy program at McGill University in Montreal and serves on the Board of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. In addition, Dawson co-chaired the selection committee for the Government of Canada's 2021 New Frontiers in Research Fund and was named 2020 Person of Distinction by the Public Affairs Association of Canada. Dr. Dawson holds a PhD in Political Science from Carleton University.

Vass Bednar is the Managing Director of the Canadian SHIELD Institute for Public Policy. She is the co-author of the *Big Fix: How Companies Capture Markets and Harm Canadians*, with Denise Hearn.

10:30 Short Track

Profitability & the Attention Economy - Shifting Focus to the Commercialization of Canadian Content

Nicole Matiation is the AV Sector Lead - Canada at Nordicity, an international consultancy in strategy, economics, programs and policy for the creative industries and cultural sector.

Fully bilingual, Nicole works closely with Nordicity's economic analysis team to support industry development strategies, as well as program and policy development, assessment, and implementation. Prior to joining Nordicity in 2023, Nicole was Executive Director of the Strategic Policy Branch in the department of Sport Culture, Heritage and Tourism Manitoba, where she oversaw a team dedicated to research, analysis, and development of legislative, policy, and program options in the areas of creative industries, performing arts, heritage, public libraries, multiculturalism, and sport.

For just over a decade, as the Executive Director of On Screen Manitoba (the provincial industry association) Nicole produced All Access, an annual AV industry conference with a program stream for each of the English- and French-language markets that brought together Canadian industry leaders, with national and international broadcasters and distributors for two days in Winnipeg, Canada. Previous to that she co-founded and led the bilingual organization, Freeze Frame: the Media Arts Centre for Young People for over ten years. Nicole has also led several other cultural organizations and boards.

Nicole holds an MA in Media Studies, Concordia University. In March 2025, she was appointed to the Board of TV5Numérique by the Minister of Canadian Heritage. She also sits on the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts Board.

10:45 Short Track

Future of Broadcasting Business Models

Brad Danks is the CEO of OUTtv Network Inc. and OUTtv Media Global Inc. (collectively OUTtv), the world's leading streamer and commissioner of LGBTQ2S+ content. A former entertainment lawyer with a distinguished practice representing U.S. and international studios, broadcasters, distributors, and financiers, Brad joined OUTtv as COO in 2006 and became CEO in 2016 with a mandate to globalize the business.

Since then, he has led OUTtv's international expansion, securing strategic partnerships across AVOD, SVOD, and FAST platforms in more than 14 countries. These include Amazon, Apple, Roku, YouTube Prime Channels, Comcast (Xumo), Samsung, PlutoTV, Google TV, Freevee, Vizio, Tivo+, Plex, Netgem, the UK's Freeview, South Africa's eMedia, Allente in Scandinavia, and Chung Wa in Taiwan.

OUTtv is home to a compelling mix of inclusive, queer-focused content from comedy to drama, documentaries, reality, and award-winning movies. OUTtv Originals include *Slayers: Wheel of Fate*, *For the Love of DILFS*, *Sew Fierce*, *X-Rated: NYC*, *Drag House Rules*, *Settle Down*, *Call Me Mother*, *Sugar Highs*, *Trixie Mattel: Skinny Legend*, and the documentary strand *OutSpoken*.

Brad is also a frequent writer and speaker on the evolving media landscape. He represents OUTtv's interests as a member of the industry groups Streaming for Australia and the Thematic Streaming Coalition. He serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, sits on the Board of Numeris, and is a faculty advisor at the Centre for Digital Media in Vancouver.

11:15 Short Track

Rethinking Connectivity in a Period of Geopolitical Challenges

Ted Woodhead resides in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Woodhead has over 25 years of experience in the telecommunications and broadcasting sector. He served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory & Government Affairs Officer at Rogers Communications until May 2023. Mr. Woodhead was responsible for overseeing Regulatory and Government Affairs at Rogers and led the regulatory processes that culminated in Rogers Communications' acquisition of Shaw Communications in 2023.

Prior to Rogers, Mr. Woodhead was the Senior Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs at TELUS Communications. He advocated for these companies in numerous proceedings before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and other Federal departments and agencies with respect to broadcasting and telecommunications matters. Prior to Telus and Rogers, Ted held various senior positions at the CRTC in both telecommunications and broadcasting.

Mr. Woodhead is a member of the External Relations and Development Committee of the Queens University Board of Trustees, Member of the Board of Directors of the Queensway Carleton Hospital Foundation and has served on the Boards of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association. Mr. Woodhead holds a B.A. (Honours) in Political Studies and History from Queen's University, and an LL.B. from the University of Windsor. Mr. Woodhead was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1989. Mr. Woodhead is currently President of Woodhead Regulatory Consulting and a Senior Associate at Clear Strategy, a Public Affairs Agency.

11:30 Short Track

AI, Authorship and Copyright

Kristina Milbourn is an experienced technology lawyer and the head of litigation for Rogers Communications, one of Canada's largest telecommunications companies, where she leads a national team. She is the founder of Rogers' Piracy Lab and Content Protection team, and was the chief strategist behind Canada's first ever dynamic site-blocking decision to protect the copyright in live sports broadcasts. Kristina also chairs Rogers' law student program, which she spearheaded in 2020 to help diversify the legal talent pipeline in corporate Canada. She's provided expert views on copyright reform and internet policy before Parliamentary committees in Canada, at the White House Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, and on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C.

Kristina sits on the Dean's Advisory Council at the Ted Rogers School of Management, within Toronto Metropolitan University; sits on the Alumni Advisory Council and Admissions Committee for Western Law School; and chairs the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada's (IPIC) Copyright Committee, and Internet and Technology Committee.

Kristina holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) from the University of Toronto; a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Western University; and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Columbia Law School.

11:45 Short Track

Age Verification for Adult Content

Senator Julie Miville-Dechéne was appointed to the Senate in June 2018 after a distinguished career in the public sector. A former journalist with Radio-Canada for 25 years, she became the broadcaster's

first female ombudsman in 2007. In 2011, she was appointed Chair of the Québec Council on the Status of Women. Since joining the Senate, she has stood out for her commitment to human rights. She sponsored Bill S-211, aimed at combating forced labour in supply chains, which received Royal Assent in May 2023. She also championed Bill S-210, requiring age verification on pornographic websites, which died on the order paper in January 2025 after nearly completing the legislative process. She introduced an improved version of the bill, numbered S-209, in May 2025.

12:00 Lunch Keynote

Dan Goldberg has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Telesat since 2006, leading one of the world's largest and most innovative satellite operators. Under his leadership, Telesat expanded its global footprint and made a strategic pivot to develop an advanced Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation—Telesat Lightspeed—designed to meet the evolving broadband connectivity needs of enterprise and government customers worldwide.

Prior to joining Telesat, Mr. Goldberg was CEO of SES New Skies, following its acquisition by SES, where he also sat on the SES Executive Committee. Before the acquisition, he held successive leadership roles at New Skies, including CEO, Chief Operating Officer, and General Counsel.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Goldberg held senior legal and regulatory positions at PanAmSat, serving as Associate General Counsel and Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs. He began his legal career in Washington, D.C., practicing at Covington & Burling and later served as a Deputy Prosecutor in the Ada County Prosecutor's Office in Boise, Idaho, and then as an associate lawyer at Goldberg, Godles, Wiener & Wright in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Goldberg served as the inaugural Chair of the Space Canada board of directors and was Chairman of the Board of the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA) from 2023 to 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree with highest honors from the University of Virginia and holds a law degree from Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude.

Sylvie Courtemanche started her career in the communications sector at the CRTC as legal counsel and Special Advisor to the Chair of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC 1991-1998)/ developing in-depth knowledge of the mandate and objectives of the CRTC and the sectors regulated by the tribunal.

She then moved to the private sector and assumed a senior management role at the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) - Executive Vice President, Policy and Regulatory Affairs where she led, managed/ coordinated and supervised all activities of the Policy and Regulatory Affairs branch of the CAB serving the television, specialty and radio sectors.

After leaving the CAB she assumed the role of Director, Regulatory Affairs (TELUS Quebec) while simultaneously working as a communications sector consultant/sole practitioner dealing with various broadcasting matters for large and small private communications companies.

She then began a 13-year career with Corus Entertainment as Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Government Relations and Compliance. In this role/ she led and engaged a multi-disciplinary team within Corus on numerous television and radio applications and appearances before the CRTC/ Parliamentary Committees and other government bodies and agencies.

Since January 2018, Sylvie is Chair of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council which deals with complaints and questions from the public about the programming of private broadcasters and reviews and administers these

complaints against a set of industry codes for the sector.

Sylvie was also active on numerous industry boards including Chair of the board of the CAB/ Chair of the board of the Radio Starmaker Fund, Vice Chair of the Fonds Radiostar, member of the board of Musicaction and member of the Legal Committee of NABA and is currently Vice-President of the Board for International Institute of Communications - Canada Chapter.

13:25 Short Track

Canada's Telecom Future: Policy choices, Pressures and Priorities

Eric Smith is Senior Vice-President at the Canadian Telecommunications Association, where he leads the Association's regulatory and policy work. He brings extensive experience in law and public policy as it relates to the telecommunications sector in Canada. Before joining the Association, Eric held senior roles at BlackBerry, including Head of Government Relations – Canada, and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in Canada for his work in information technology law. He has also served as Vice-President and General Counsel at Corel Corporation and practiced law at Fraser Milner Casgrain (now Dentons), where he co-chaired the firm's Technology Transactions Practice Group.

Rob Ghiz as President and CEO of the Canadian Telecommunications Association Robert Ghiz provides overall leadership and direction to an organization that is dedicated to building a better future for Canadians through connectivity. Robert has served in this role since 2017, helping the Association represent and promote companies and service providers that collectively contributed nearly \$81 billion to Canada's gross domestic product in 2023 alone.

Prior to joining the Association, Robert had a successful career as a political leader. He was twice elected Premier of Prince Edward Island from 2007 to 2015, successfully stewarding the province's economy through the 2008 global financial collapse and contributing to its record-setting economic growth following the recession.

In addition to his role today with the Canadian Telecommunications Association, Robert is the Chair of Mobile Giving Foundation Canada, and the Chair of the Medavie Health Foundation. He also serves as an Advisor on numerous Boards including the True Patriot Love Foundation.

13:45 Short Track

Impact of Aging Population

Gabrielle Gallant is the Director of Policy at the National Institute on Ageing. She comes to the NIA with a strong background in advocacy, with experience in corporate, association and think-tank advocacy work. Passionate about government and public policy, she believes in strong networks to drive positive outcomes.

Gabrielle worked in several different provincial ministerial offices, having finished her time in government as a senior advisor in the Premier's Office. She also served as the director of communications and operations to the President of the Treasury Board.,

Gabrielle is a member of the faculty at Sheridan College, and has been a part time instructor in the graduate diploma program for Corporate Communications and Public Relations for six years.

As a volunteer, Gabrielle has devoted her time to causes that advance the participation of women in politics and public affairs. She has served on the board of Equal Voice and the young patrons group at Women's College Hospital. During the pandemic, Gabrielle began a neighbourhood mutual aid organization that fed more than one

hundred hungry families.

Gabrielle is a passionate equestrian, and has been a competitive showjumper in the past. In her free time, you can find her wandering the trails in Ontario's greenbelt with her horse Taxi.

14:00 Short Track

First Nations Information Governance Centre and the Data Sovereignty Research Collaborative

Jonathan Dewar, PhD, is the Chief Executive Officer at the First Nations Information Governance Centre. The FNIGC leads national-level research, designing and implementing surveys, including the longstanding First Nations Regional Health Survey, as well as related research and public health initiatives, and provides information governance and OCAP® education and training. FNIGC is also leading the implementation of the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

He has spent most of his career directing research and knowledge translation initiatives for national Indigenous-led organizations. During that time, his work has focused on governance, strategic planning, health and well-being, data sovereignty, arts and literature, and truth, healing and reconciliation.

Jonathan previously served as the Director General and Vice President, Collections, Research, Exhibitions and Repatriation at the Canadian Museum of History; Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and Special Advisor to the President at Algoma University; and Director of Research at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, among other leadership roles.

Jonathan received a doctorate from the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University and holds an appointment as Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He also serves in many volunteer capacities, including as a member of the Board of Directors of the Queensway Carleton Hospital, where he is also Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee, and as a member of the inaugural Board of Directors for the National Council for Reconciliation. He has served on many expert advisory bodies, including the Expert Advisory Group on the pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy, and serves as a member of the National Killam Program Selection Committee.

Born and raised in the unceded and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Nation (Ottawa), Jonathan is of Scottish- and French-Canadian heritage and a member of the Huron Wendat Nation.

14:15 Panel

Canadian News: Issues and Solutions

Moderator: Greg O'Brien has been news director at CHCH-TV in Hamilton for four years, leading a newsroom of journalists serving the dynamic regions of Hamilton, Halton, Niagara, and beyond. On air since 1954, CHCH produces 28 hours of local news each week, operates the region's top news website, publishes popular newsletters and podcasts, and remains deeply woven into the fabric of the communities it serves. A journalist for more than 30 years, he previously founded and ran Cartr.ca, a respected industry publication covering Canadian broadcasting, telecom, and media policy, for 16 years.

Kevin Desjardins is the President and CEO of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, representing Canada's private radio and television stations and services. He returned to the CAB in 2020, after having served in public affairs and communications roles from 2005 to 2007.

Kevin is an accomplished association leader, with a wealth of experience in all aspects of association management for industry and professional groups, and a focus on federal advocacy and communications. Previous to the CAB, he also served in public affairs roles at the Canadian Dental Association, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and the Canadian Conference of the Arts. He also served for six

years on the Board of Directors of the Government Relations Institute of Canada.

Sara-Christine Gemson has worked in journalism, communications and non-profit management. She is currently the Executive Director of the Action Canada Fellowship and the Public Policy Forum's Academy. She was previously Vice-President of Programs and Director of Communications at Teach For Canada, a non-profit that partners with remote First Nations to recruit, prepare and support educators.

Sara-Christine also worked as a TV, radio and digital journalist for many years, primarily for Radio-Canada in Toronto and Regina. She was also an Aga Khan journalism fellow in Kenya, where she wrote for the Daily Nation.

Sara-Christine completed a B.A. in philosophy and communications at the University of Ottawa and an M.Phil in comparative government at Oxford University. She is an Action Canada alumna.

Sue Gardner is a digital strategy consultant and the former head of the Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit that operates Wikipedia, and of CBC.CA, the English-language site of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 2021-22 she was the McConnell Professor of Practice at the Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University. She spent the first 15 years of her career working as a journalist, mostly for the CBC. She is a board member with the Internet Society of Canada, the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, Wiki Education, and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). Sue serves as an advisor to a variety of start-ups, nonprofits, grantmaking and policy organizations, mostly in the realm of technology, media and digital freedoms. She has received many awards for her work: her favourite is the Nyan Cat Medal of Internet Awesomeness for Defending Internet Freedom which she was awarded for her role in opposing SOPA/PIPA in the United States in 2012.

15:30 Short Track

Valuation of Personal Data

Kean Birch is Ontario Research Chair in Science Policy and Professor in the Department of Science, Technology & Society at York University, Toronto. He was founding Director of the Institute for Technoscience & Society and 2025 winner of the President's Research Excellence Award at York University. He has been a Visiting Scholar at Copenhagen Business School and the Munich Center for Technology & Society, Technical University Munich. He is Co-Editor of the leading international science & technology studies journal "Science as Culture" and Founding Editor of the "Technoscience & Society Book Series" at University of Toronto Press. Kean's most recent work focuses on the digital economy, especially the transformation of digital data into a political-economic asset and the role of large digital tech firms in this process. Analytically, he is fascinated by processes of assetization; that is, how many different things are turned into assets from which people can extract durable economic rents. His main contribution to these debates is the book "Assetization: Turning Things into Assets in Technoscientific Capitalism", co-edited with Fabian Muniesa and published by MIT Press. He has a more recent book called "Data Enclaves" published by Palgrave Macmillan, which deals with the increasing centrality of digital personal data to our economies, especially its asset form and role in new forms of 'parasitic' innovation that undermines our social infrastructure, our markets and competition, and our social and political lives.

15:45 Panel

Consumer Information: Can Privacy, Personalization and Trust get along?

Moderator: Bill Abbott (Director - Regulatory Law at TELUS) is a recognized telecommunications, administrative law and privacy expert with extensive experience in regulatory policy, data governance, artificial intelligence and compliance. He is part of the dynamic TELUS Legal and Regulatory Affairs

team, working on challenging CRTC proceedings, new federal legislation and cutting edge legal and policy issues at a time of transformative change for TELUS. Bill has worked in the regulatory and privacy fields for over 25 years, holding positions in both the public and private sector. Bill is the past chair of the Canadian Bar Association Privacy and Access Section, currently on the Executive of the Administrative Law Section, a member of the IAPP and is active in a number of industry associations on privacy and data governance issues. He resides in Ottawa with his family and Juno (the dog), eagerly anticipating the arrival of snow, skiing and Canal skating.

Amanda Maltby is the Chief Privacy Officer at Environics Analytics where she leads the organization's privacy-first approach in the design, development and delivery of its data products and services and a culture of mindful privacy across the enterprise.

Before joining Environics Analytics, Amanda was Chief Privacy Officer at Canada Post Corporation where she led the team responsible for enterprise privacy and corporate compliance. Under Amanda's leadership, Canada Post established a dynamic and modern privacy program and AI governance framework across the organization.

Previously, Amanda was Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs at Ipsos Reid, where she worked with leading Canadian organizations to build market research solutions and public affairs strategies. She was Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs at the Canadian Marketing Association, where she represented the Association in national and global forums on issues related to data privacy, digital marketing and consumer protection and led the development of Canadian self-regulatory codes on marketing to children and ethical marketing practices. She was a member of Canada's Task Force on Spam and the federal government committee that established the CSA Model Code and Canada's first private sector privacy law (PIPEDA).

Amanda serves as a member of the privacy and data advisory committees at the Retail Council of Canada, Canadian Marketing Association, and the Interactive Advertising Bureau of Canada. She is a founding member and current Chair of the Business Privacy Group that includes some of Canada's leading privacy professionals and industry association executives focused on building trust in Canada's digital economy and statutory regimes. Amanda is active in the International Association of Privacy Professionals and has served as a member of the IAPP's Canadian Advisory Board.

Amanda is a frequent speaker on issues impacting marketing and a sought-after voice in privacy forums and conferences across North America. She believes that responsible and transparent use of data, and digital technologies such as AI is necessary to gain consumer trust and foundational for effective privacy.

Carly Meredith is a partner based out of DLA Piper's Montreal office, specializing in data privacy and employment law. As head of the firm's Québec privacy and data protection group, Carly advises clients across diverse industries - including pharmaceutical, telecommunications, hospitality and retail - on compliance with the robust privacy and data protection laws applicable at the federal and provincial levels in Québec.

Carly's practice spans a wide range of privacy matters, including the drafting and application of confidentiality procedures and policies, the negotiation of data-processing agreements, cross-border data transfers, the implementation of biometric and tracking technologies, data subject access requests, and guiding businesses through enforcement actions. Carly frequently acts as lead privacy counsel in many complex mergers and acquisitions involving the communication of personal information across multiple jurisdictions and regulatory frameworks.

Carly has extensive experience assisting clients with the management and response to confidentiality and cybersecurity incidents. By leveraging DLA Piper's global presence, Carly's experience includes coordinating swift and cohesive multi-jurisdictional incident response. Given her proficiency in this area, Carly has served as

privacy counsel in the context of defending against class action litigation resulting from material data breaches and confidentiality incidents having impacted some of the world's most recognizable brands. Known for her practical and forward-thinking approach, Carly helps clients navigate the challenges of today's interconnected and highly regulated business environment.

Frédéric Wilson As national co-leader of BLG's Privacy team, Frédéric advises the firm's clients on all aspects of data protection compliance. He regularly assists private and public companies with the implementation of compliance programs and workplace monitoring initiatives, adoption of new technologies, rollout of marketing programs and management of AI risks. He also advises clients with regard to the legal stakes of cross-border data flows, conducting of privacy impact assessments and responding to privacy breaches.

With a decade of litigation experience, Frédéric represents clients in administrative investigations, responses to complaints and judicial reviews. He helps clients of all industries, including the financial and fintech fields.

Prior to joining BLG, Frédéric served as a senior privacy counsel at a major Canadian financial institution. In this role, he was in charge of privacy incident management and contributed to the implementation of a vast privacy compliance program.

Before that, he practised commercial litigation for eight years at an international law firm, specializing in class action and consumer law. He has represented major corporations before all Québec courts, the Federal Court and in arbitration proceedings.

16:45 Keynote

Anna Gomez is an American telecommunications attorney currently serving as a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.[1] From 2013 to 2022, she was a partner at the law firm Wiley Rein. In 2023, she was a senior advisor in the United States Department of State's Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy. She was the deputy assistant secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from 2009 to 2013.

Born in Orlando, Florida, Gomez spent her childhood in Bogotá, Colombia, before relocating to New Jersey with her family.[2] She graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in pre-law and from the George Washington University Law School in 1992 with a Juris Doctor degree.[2]

After graduation from law school, Gomez worked as an associate at Arnold & Porter.[3] She joined the Federal Communications Commission in 1994, serving as deputy counsel to the chief until 1996. Gomez served as deputy chief of staff for the National Economic Council. In 1997, she returned to the FCC, serving as chief and deputy chief of the Network Services Division.[3] Gomez served as deputy chief of the FCC International Bureau and as a senior legal advisor to Chairman William E. Kennard.[3] From 2006 to 2009, Gomez worked as the vice president of government affairs at Sprint Nextel.[4] From 2009 to 2013, Gomez served as deputy assistant secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.[4] From 2013 to 2022, she worked as a partner at Wiley Rein. From January until September in 2023, Gomez served as a senior advisor in the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy.[4]

In May 2023, U.S. president Joe Biden nominated Gomez to the Federal Communications Commission following the failed bid of Gigi Sohn.[3][5] The United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation reported favorably on her nomination in July 2023.[6][5][7] On September 7, 2023, the United States Senate voted to confirm Gomez with a vote of 55–43.[1][8] Her term ends July 1, 2026.[5]

Jennifer Tatal brings sophisticated legal analysis and insightful counseling to her clients in the communications

and information technology industries. While in public service working in a variety of roles including Acting General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission and Division Chief in the FCC's Media Bureau, Jennifer tackled a broad variety of legal issues impacting media and technology companies. She has played a role in some of the largest media transactions considered by federal regulators, and she has been on the cutting edge of legal issues while in public service and on behalf of private clients. Her expertise includes transactions, media issues, video competition, administrative law, and privacy.

Jennifer started her professional life as a social worker, working with children in the foster care system in the District of Columbia.

Phillip Marchessiello develops practical solutions to challenging business and legal issues raised by FCC and state public utility commission rules and policies. His combination of transactional, policy, and compliance experience across the media, telecommunications, and technology sectors enables Phil to understand and effectively navigate the regulatory and commercial environments that shape his clients' businesses objectives. Often working closely with his clients' in-house and outside corporate teams, Phil helps negotiate enterprise-level information technology and telecommunications agreements, as well as infrastructure deployment contracts, including right-of-way access and pole attachment agreements for small cells and 5G infrastructure; structuring transactions to comply with applicable regulatory requirements. He also manages the FCC and PUC regulatory approval processes for transactions. He believes in a collaborative approach to negotiations that provides his clients with as much legal and business-side protection as possible while still getting to "yes."

Phil also represents communications companies before the FCC in policy advocacy, licensing, and compliance matters, including clients in the equipment manufacturing, Telecommunications Relay Services, inmate calling services, high-speed communications links, submarine cable deployment and licensing, and Mobile Satellite Service sectors.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

09:00 Keynote

Philippe Dufresne was appointed Privacy Commissioner of Canada on June 27, 2022. A leading legal expert on human rights, administrative and constitutional law, he previously served as the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the House of Commons. In this capacity, he was the chief legal officer of the House of Commons and led the office responsible for the provision of legal and legislative drafting services to the House of Commons, its Speaker, Members and committees, the Board of Internal Economy and the House Administration.

Prior to his appointment as Law Clerk of the House of Commons in 2015, he was the Canadian Human Rights Commission's Senior General Counsel, responsible for legal services, litigation, investigations, mediations, employment equity and Access to Information and Privacy. During that time, he successfully represented the Commission before all levels of Canadian Courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, in a number of key human rights and constitutional cases over the last two decades. He has appeared before the Supreme Court on 15 occasions, on issues ranging from accessibility and equal pay for work of equal value, to the balancing of human rights and national security. As lead counsel for the Commission in the landmark parliamentary privilege case of *House of Commons v. Vaid*, he helped reinforce and clarify some of the country's fundamental constitutional principles as they apply to the House of Commons and Parliament.

A member of the Bars of Quebec, Ontario, and Massachusetts, he has served his profession and community in several different capacities, including as president of the constitutional and human rights law section of the Canadian Bar Association (Quebec Branch) and as a member of the editorial board for the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association's CCCA Magazine. In 2014, he served as president of the International Commission of

Jurists, an organization devoted to the protection of the rule of law and judicial independence in Canada and internationally.

Commissioner Dufresne holds degrees in common and civil law from McGill University's Faculty of Law, and has been a part-time professor with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Common Law and Queen's University's Faculty of Law where he taught international criminal law, human rights and appellate advocacy. He regularly speaks on issues of human rights, administrative, privacy, constitutional and parliamentary law in Canada.

9:30 Panel

The Future of Lawful Access

Moderator: Leah West is an Associate Professor at the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. She has an SJD and JD from the University of Toronto, LLM from the University of Ottawa where she was the Counterterrorism Fellow, an MA in Intelligence from American Military University, and an BA(Hons) from the Royal Military College. She previously served as counsel with the National Security Litigation and Advisory Branch of the Department of Justice, and was an Armoured Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, deploying to Afghanistan in 2010. Leah is the co-author with Craig Forcese of *National Security Law* (Irwin Law, 2021, 2d Ed), and co-editor of *Stress Tested: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Canadian National Security* (UCP, 2021). In 2024, Leah served on the Research Council of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions.

Kate Robertson is a senior research associate at the Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto. Her research explores the intersection of law, policy, and technology, and focuses on transparency and accountability mechanisms relevant to the relationship between corporations and state agencies in the use of personal data and other surveillance activities. She has published human rights reports on emerging technologies, and has represented public interest organizations in digital rights cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. She draws on former experience as a law clerk of the Supreme Court, and subsequently, as a criminal lawyer in Canada's justice system.

Michael Geist is a law professor at the University of Ottawa where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law and is a member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society. He has obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees from Cambridge University in the UK and Columbia Law School in New York, and a Doctorate in Law (J.S.D.) from Columbia Law School.

Dr. Geist is the editor of several copyright books including *The Copyright Pentology: How the Supreme Court of Canada Shook the Foundations of Canadian Copyright Law* (2013, University of Ottawa Press), *From "Radical Extremism" to "Balanced Copyright": Canadian Copyright and the Digital Agenda* (2010, Irwin Law) and *In the Public Interest: The Future of Canadian Copyright Law* (2005, Irwin Law), the editor of several monthly technology law publications, the author of a popular blog on Internet and intellectual property law issues, and the creator of Law Bytes, one of Canada's leading technology law podcasts.

Dr. Geist serves on many boards, including Internet Archive Canada and the EFF Advisory Board. He was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2018 and has received numerous awards for his work including the Canadian Journalists for Freedom of Expression Vox Libera Award in 2018, the Kroeger Award for Policy Leadership and the Public Knowledge IP3 Award in 2010, the Les Fowlie Award for Intellectual Freedom from the Ontario Library Association in 2009, the EFF's Pioneer Award in 2008, and Canarie's IWAY Public Leadership Award for his contribution to the development of the Internet in Canada.

10:45 Short Track

Technology Regulation: Resetting the Agenda

Emily Laidlaw is a Canada Research Chair in cybersecurity law and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary. She is also a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, an Associate Member of the University of Ottawa's Centre for Law, Technology and Society and a Fellow of the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies. She is currently serving as the Rovinescu Visiting Scholar on anti-hate speech at the University of Ottawa. Beyond academia, Dr. Laidlaw contributes her expertise on the boards of the National Cybersecurity Consortium and the Canadian Internet Society.

Her research centres on technology regulation, cybersecurity, and human rights, with particular emphasis on platform regulation, privacy, online harms, freedom of expression, and corporate governance. Dr. Laidlaw is the author of *Regulating Speech in Cyberspace: Gatekeepers, Human Rights and Corporate Responsibility* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and co-editor, with Florian Martin-Bariteau, of the forthcoming book *Security of Self: A Human-Centric Approach to Cybersecurity* (Ottawa University Press, 2025).

Dr. Laidlaw's academic journey began in the United Kingdom, where she earned her LLM and PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and held her first professorship at the University of East Anglia Law School. She initially practised as a litigator and has since returned to legal practice, now operating her own law firm. In 2014, she joined the University of Calgary.

Her research bridges Canadian, UK, European, and international law, drawing on her extensive experience abroad. Dr. Laidlaw actively engages in law reform and consults for governments and organizations, contributing to projects on cybersecurity, online harms, misinformation and disinformation, defamation law, intimate image abuse, intermediary liability, and content moderation.

A dedicated public scholar, Dr. Laidlaw is deeply committed to knowledge engagement—whether through teaching, community events, public panels, conferences, judicial education, or testifying before government.

11:00 Short Track

Developments in Competition Law

Robin Shaban is a Canadian economist and public policy expert. They are co-founder and chair of the Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project, a think tank dedicated to addressing pressing issues caused by monopoly power in Canada. With a focus on promoting inclusive economic growth in Canada, Robin has published several original research reports and is a frequent public speaker and media commentator.

They are a founding Partner at 2R Strategy, a consulting firm specializing in economic analysis and strategic foresight that helps clients create strategies to overcome complex and existential challenges. Robin has fellow roles at the Public Policy Forum and Social Capital Partners. In 2021, Robin received a Changemaker Award from The Globe and Mail for their efforts to advance public policy centered on social justice and their academic work on competition policy.

Robin holds a doctorate in public policy from the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University, with competition policy as the topic of their dissertation. They hold a master's degree in economics from Queen's University, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Alberta.

11:15 Short Track

Protection of Canada's Subsea Cables

Vina Nadjibulla joined the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada as Vice-President, Research & Strategy in November 2023.

In this role, she leads the Foundation's research and programmatic activities focused on Canada's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region. This includes overseeing APF Canada's research agenda, fellowship programs, education and capacity-building initiatives, and regional programming through the Indo-Pacific Initiative. She also plays a key role in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and advancing the Foundation's public policy impact.

Vina is a frequent commentator on Canadian foreign policy and Indo-Pacific affairs, with a particular focus on Canada's evolving relationships with China and India, and the region's broader security, trade, and geopolitical dynamics.

As an international security and peace-building expert, Vina has more than two decades of experience in diplomacy, political analysis, and advocacy. She has worked with international organizations, governments, think tanks, and philanthropic institutions across Canada, the U.S., China, and Central Asia on issues ranging from conflict resolution and human rights to strategic risk and multilateral diplomacy.

She is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia and a Senior Research Fellow at The Soufan Center in New York.

Vina holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and is fluent in English, Russian, and Farsi, with intermediate proficiency in Mandarin. She is a Canadian citizen, born in the former Soviet Union, raised in Afghanistan, and educated in the United States.

11:30 Panel

Bill C-8 and Cybersecurity

Moderator: Robbie Grant is an associate lawyer in the Toronto office of McMillan LLP, where he is building a dynamic practice focused on privacy, data protection, artificial intelligence and Canada's anti-spam legislation (CASL). He frequently assists organizations in drafting and reviewing privacy policies, navigating data breaches, and advising on the privacy law dimensions of business practices and transactions. He also assists clients in preparing privacy impact assessments and responding to access to information requests. Increasingly, Robbie advises on the implementation of artificial intelligence tools.

Robbie supports clients across all industries, including health, automotive, financial, retail, and technology. He has worked with startups and emerging companies as well as established industry leaders.

Robbie has written numerous articles on cybersecurity matters, including Bill C-8's its predecessor legislation, Bill C-26. Robbie was recently quoted in the Globe and Mail on the introduction of Bill-C-8: see Alexandra Posadzki, "Federal Liberals reintroduce cybersecurity bill meant to protect critical infrastructure" (June 23, 2025). Robbie is excited to be speaking at the IIC conference for the first time.

Bonnie Butlin also known around the world as “Canada’s First Lady of Security”, is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Security Partners’ Forum (SPF), a first-of-its-kind agile international network of security and resilience associations, institutes and professionals, bridging all domains and disciplines of security. Under the SPF banner, she created the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA), which engages a growing network of women in security and resilience associations and groups globally.

Since 2013, Bonnie Butlin has received some two-dozen international- and national-level awards, accolades and recognitions related to security, resilience, and leadership.

She is a Security Risk Management Certified Professional (SRMCP) (2023), holds Fellow status within the Australian Risk Policy Institute (F.ARPI) (2022), and is a Fellow of ISC2 (2020).

Bonnie holds a Master of Arts (MA) in International Affairs, from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University. In 2018, Bonnie was the recipient of the A.D. Dunton Alumni Award of Distinction – Carleton University’s highest alumni award.

Bonnie holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science, from the University of Calgary. In 2019, she completed the MicroMasters Program in International Legal Studies, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium. Bonnie holds Graduate Certificates for the ISMA-Georgetown Strategic Leadership Program, Washington, D.C. (2017-18), and for the Corporate Security Executive Master Class, Burrill-Green Corporate Security Business School (2014).

Bonnie has also served on a variety of committees, as well as advisory and editorial boards. Bonnie currently serves as an Editorial Board Member for Cyber Security: A Peer-Reviewed Journal (Henry Stuart Publications).

Byron Holland has led CIRA as President & CEO since 2008. An expert in internet governance and a seasoned entrepreneur, he brings extensive C-level experience in both the private and not-for-profit sectors. Under Byron’s leadership, CIRA has evolved from a single-service registry into a globally recognized, multi-product commercial not-for-profit organization. Now one of the leading country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) in the world, CIRA manages over 3.4 million domains under management, with more than 30% of the world’s TLDs utilizing its DNS services.

Byron is also a founding member of A Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholders (TCCM), a group of internet and technology experts committed to supporting inclusive, collaborative decision-making processes in global internet governance. Byron represents CIRA internationally in global policy work and has played a pivotal role in shaping key internet governance decisions.

He has held prominent leadership roles within the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), serving as Chair of the Customer Standing Committee and as both Chair and Vice-chair of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). Most recently, in March 2025, Byron joined the ICANN Board of Directors, where he currently serves on the Finance and Audit Committees. In addition, he has held leadership positions with CENTR, ARIN, and TorIX, and continues to represent CIRA in international and domestic policy forums.

Lori Turnbull From July 2015 until July 2017, she was on secondment to the Privy Council Office (PCO), first as a Policy Advisor in the Machinery of Government Secretariat, then as Departmental Liaison to the Office of the Minister of Democratic Institutions, and finally as a Policy Advisor at the Priorities and Planning Secretariat. Dr. Turnbull’s research and teaching focus on parliamentary democracy and governance, public sector ethics, and democratic reform. She has taught political science and public administration at Dalhousie, Queen’s, Carleton, and Acadia universities. She is a frequent commentator on television and radio with all of the major networks in Canada.

Her book, *Democratizing the Constitution: Reforming Responsible Government*, co-authored with Mark Jarvis

and the late Peter Aucoin, won the Donner Prize in 2011 and the Donald Smiley Prize in 2012.

12:30 Lunch Keynote

Marie-Philippe Bouchard was appointed President and CEO of CBC/Radio-Canada on October 18, 2024, for a five-year term, effective January 3, 2025.

A member of the Quebec Bar since 1985, Marie-Philippe Bouchard joined the CBC/Radio-Canada Law Department in 1987 after beginning her career as a lecturer and researcher in communications law at the Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP), a public law research centre run by the University of Montreal's Faculty of Law.

From 1987 to 2016, she held a variety of management and senior executive positions at CBC/Radio-Canada in strategic planning and regulatory affairs, television news and current affairs, radio news, as well as music and digital services, for which she was general manager until January 2016.

From 2016 to 2024, she served as President and CEO of TV5 Québec Canada, whose mission is to promote the diversity of francophone culture by broadcasting French-language content that showcases and connects the francophone communities in Quebec, across Canada and around the world. During her time at the helm of TV5 Québec Canada, she strengthened valuable relationships with many organizations that support French-speaking communities throughout Canada, as well as with international public media that serve French-speaking communities.

Catherine Clark is a nationally respected broadcaster, emcee, and co-founder of The Honest Talk, a leading Canadian podcast, media site, and live event series for women.

Catherine is also the President of Catherine Clark Communications and Special Advisor to Syntax Strategic, providing communications counsel to individuals and corporations.

Deeply committed to community service, she has served on numerous boards of directors, and is currently vice-chair of the Board of Governors of The Ottawa Hospital and a member of the Board of Directors of Hydro Ottawa Group.

14:00 Short Track

Meet Clara: The Importance of Training Your AI

Don Lenihan is an expert in public engagement with a long-standing focus on how digital technologies are transforming societies, governments, and governance. He writes a weekly column on artificial intelligence for National Newswatch, Canada's premier political news aggregator.

14:30 Short Track

Digital Sovereignty

Barry Appleton Prof. Appleton is Managing Partner at Appleton & Associates International Lawyers LP (Toronto), co-director and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Center for International Law at New York Law School, and Scholar and Fellow at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario.

Prof Appleton is a regular media commentator on global trade and digital economy issues in both US and Canadian outlets, including a recent series in the National Post on Digital Sovereignty. A trusted advisor on international economic law, he advised the Ontario Cabinet Committee on North American Free Trade during NAFTA negotiations and has advised other governments on international trade matters. He is the author of two

NAFTA books and numerous publications on economic law and digital sovereignty. Prof. Appleton is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the bars of Ontario, New York, the District of Columbia, and the US Court of International Trade.

14:45 Panel

Legal Landscape – Developments in Canadian Communications and Media Law

Leslie Milton provides complex legal and strategic advice to Canadian and foreign wireline, wireless and satellite telecommunications service providers on all aspects of telecommunications and radiocommunications regulation in Canada. She acts for these clients in a broad range of proceedings before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED Canada).

Leslie has participated in all manner of policy, licensing and enforcement proceedings before the CRTC including international licensing, wholesale access and resale, tariff approvals, forbearance, foreign ownership, consumer safeguards, local access and interconnection, Internet services, numbering, do-not-call, anti-spam (CASL) and voter contact proceedings.

Before ISED Canada, Leslie represents wireless and satellite operators on spectrum and radio licensing, spectrum policy proceedings, antenna siting and sharing, equipment certification and other regulatory compliance matters. As a former in-house regulatory counsel at a leading global satellite operator, Leslie also has unique insight into international regulation and spectrum allocations, as well as satellite market access/landing rights requirements in Canada and other countries, including the U.S., South and Central America and Europe, and into the World Radio Conference (WRC) process.

Leslie is also a seasoned practitioner in the area of access by telecommunications service providers to municipal rights of way and other public places and to third party support structures, including poles, antennas and conduit, having acted on these matters before the CRTC, the Federal and Provincial Courts and provincial energy regulators.

Monica Song is a senior partner at Dentons Canada LLP leading the communications law practice at the firm.

Monica advises on the legal, regulatory, licensing, and public policy issues affecting all facets of the communications industry, with a substantial focus on advocacy and intersectional mandates involving the application of existing legal and regulatory frameworks to new and innovative technologies and applications. Monica has appeared before all levels of courts in Ontario and Federal Courts in both civil and public law proceedings as well as before numerous statutory boards and tribunals and pleads in both English and French.

She is a nationally and globally ranked practitioner in her field, having been repeatedly recognized, including in Chambers Canada – Band 1, Telecoms, Media & Broadcasting, Chambers Global – Band 1, Telecoms, Media & Broadcasting.

Outside of her work at Dentons, Monica taught as a sessional lecturer in communications law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa for ten years (2008-2018). In 2018-19, she served as an expert panelist on the Government of Canada's Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review (BTLR), which issued its final report, entitled Canada's Communications Future: Time to Act in January 2020. On July 22, 2020, Monica was appointed the Broadcasting Arbitrator of Canada under the Canada Elections Act and remains in that office today.

15:30 Short Track

The Importance of Digital Media and AI Literacy Education for all Canadians

Kathryn Ann Hill is the Executive Director of MediaSmarts/HabitoMédias, Canada's Centre for Digital Media Literacy. Kathryn holds a Master of Social Work, and a Master of Management. Her commitment to social justice has resulted in a career of over 30 years in leadership roles in the voluntary sector, serving in senior leadership roles in both national and community-based organizations. Kathryn is a regular contributor to articles and research and is a frequent presenter on issues related to digital and media literacy. She has served as an expert advisor on numerous committees including: the Prime Minister's Awards Advisory Committee; the CBC Kid's News Advisory Committee; and UNESCO's GAPMIL Organizing Committee. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of National Capital Freenet.

15:45 Short Track

Quantum Computing and its Impact on Cyber Security

Melanie Anderson is the Director General, Information Assurance at the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, responsible for applied cryptographic research, architecture, engineering and development of secure cryptographic solutions.

In her previous role as Director Cryptographic Security and Systems Development, Melanie and her teams were responsible for Canadian Communications Security (COMSEC) policy and compliance, evaluating the security of cryptographic products, providing cryptographic advice and guidance including preparations for the quantum threat to Cryptography, and modernizing the Government of Canada's classified infrastructure. Melanie is passionate about promoting the well-being of women in the workplace, mentoring and encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in STEM.

Melanie began her career at CSE in 2003 and has held numerous technical and leadership roles in cyber security and IT. She was a technical liaison for CSE in the United States, and has held roles as a software developer, a technical trainer, and a Project Manager for IT systems used by Government of Canada clients.

She holds a Bachelor of Computer Science from the University of New Brunswick and completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program through the Harvard Kennedy School in 2020. In 2023, Melanie was recognized by Deloitte as one of 30 Women in Cyber at the forefront of the cyber revolution and she was named as one of Canada's Top 20 Women in Cyber Security by IT World Canada.

16:00 Panel

AI and Compute Infrastructure

Moderator: Murad Hemmadi covers artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing and other deep technologies. He was previously an Ottawa correspondent for The Logic, covering business and innovation policy.

David Twedell joins the Digital Research Alliance of Canada as Interim Vice President, Strategy & Planning, with 25 years of experience in multiple sectors, including engineering software, automotive product design and manufacturing, and academic research administration.

Most recently, David was Executive Director, Research Strategic Initiatives in the office of the Vice-

President, Research and International at the University of Waterloo. Prior to working at Waterloo, he served in progressively senior roles in Western University's Research Office, ultimately as Western's Director of Research Development. While at Western, he was accountable for administering the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Major Scientific Initiative funding awarded for the operation of the Compute Canada Federation. Before moving into the academic sector, David worked at a Canadian Tier 1 automotive manufacturer and a Waterloo spin-off software company.

David has also worked as a private data analytics consultant, helping clients gain strategic insights from their data.

David received his Bachelor and Master of Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering) degrees from the University of Waterloo, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario. He lives in London, Ontario with his wife Sheila and their two children. When he isn't fixing something or writing code, you might find David taking in a London Majors baseball game at Labatt Memorial Park, the world's oldest baseball grounds.

Glen Berseth is an assistant professor at the Université de Montréal, a core academic member of the Mila - Quebec AI Institute, Canada CIFAR AI chair, and co-director of the Robotics and Embodied AI Lab (REAL). He was a Postdoctoral Researcher at Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR), working with Sergey Levine. His current research focuses on machine learning and solving real-world sequential decision-making problems (planning/RL), such as robotics, scientific discovery and adaptive clean technology. The specifics of his research have covered the areas of human-robot collaboration, generalization, reinforcement learning, continual learning, meta-learning, multi-agent learning, and hierarchical learning. Dr. Berseth has published across the top venues in robotics, machine learning, and computer animation in his work. He also created a new course on foundational models and scaling reinforcement learning for robotics at Université de Montréal and Mila, covering the most recent research on machine learning techniques for creating generalist agents. He has also co-created a new conference for reinforcement learning research.

Mike Tremblay is President and CEO of CANARIE, Canada's National Research and Education Network (NREN), where he leads the vision of building a trusted, globally connected digital research ecosystem. He also serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of The Ottawa Hospital, helping to guide one of Canada's leading healthcare institutions.

Throughout his career, Michael has held senior leadership positions at the intersection of technology, innovation, and community impact.

He previously served as President of Calian's IT & Cyber Solutions division, CEO of Invest Ottawa, and in executive roles at Microsoft, SAP, and Fujitsu. Across these organizations, he has been recognized for his ability to build teams, foster collaboration, and drive transformation.

Michael is deeply committed to growing leaders from all walks of life. He believes that diverse perspectives and shared values create the strongest foundations for innovation and resilience.

His work is guided by three commitments: enabling research and innovation to strengthen Canada's competitiveness, championing healthcare excellence through governance and community leadership, and building inclusive teams that thrive in a complex world.

Nicole Foster is Director of AWS Global AI and Canada Public Policy at Amazon, where she leads the direction and strategy of artificial intelligence (AI) public policy for Amazon Web Services (AWS) around the world as well as the company's public policy efforts in support of the AWS business in Canada. In this role, she focuses on digital policy issues including: responsible AI, the regulation of emerging technology, digital infrastructure, economic development, and sustainability.

Prior to joining Amazon in 2018, Nicole led the Toronto office for Global Public Affairs, providing senior

public affairs counsel to a diverse range of clients, including both commercial and not-for-profit organizations. Nicole worked with clients in a variety of sectors including natural resources, health, infrastructure, retail, consumer, and gaming.

Before joining Global in 2004, Nicole worked for a number of years in political roles in Ottawa, including as the Legislative Assistant to the Minister of the Environment. She also worked in the rural affairs portfolio as well as Status of Women and Multiculturalism.

Nicole has been active in numerous political campaigns and events. She has been a long-term volunteer and previous National Chair for Equal Voice, a multi-partisan group dedicated to raising the issue of women's under-representation in Canadian legislatures and creating a climate in which more women will be elected. Nicole currently serves on several boards include the Frontier Model Forum, TechNation, the Empire Club of Canada, and the GTA Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce. She is a former National Chair of Equal Voice, and former Director on the Board of the Government Relations Institute of Canada and the Design Exchange Museum. Nicole has a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Culture Studies with an extended minor in Political Science from Simon Fraser University.

17:00 Keynote

Michael de Adder Award winning editorial cartoonist for the Globe and Mail and the Hill Times,,de Adder was the 2020 recipient of the Herblock Prize for editorial cartooning. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Mount Allison University in May 2020. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2023. He draws approximately ten cartoons weekly, and for over a million readers per day.