



## IIC Canada 2024 Conference Speakers' Biographies Monday, October 21

### 09:00 Keynote

**VICKY EATRIDES** is Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Vicky began her career practising 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

#### Legislative Landscape: Developments in Canadian Communications and Media Law

**MONIQUE LAFONTAINE** is a communications and entertainment lawyer with over 25 years of experience. Monique currently operates her own legal practice providing strategic, legal and regulatory advice to a wide range of clients in the areas of communications and entertainment law. In January 2023, Monique completed a five-year term as Commissioner for Ontario at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) where she adjudicated on several broadcasting, telecommunications and enforcement matters each year. These included establishing the framework for the CRTC's \$750 million broadband fund, approving broadcasting and telecommunications policies and regulations, telecommunications tariffs, *Accessible Canada Act* related matters, licence renewals of major broadcast players and broadcasting acquisitions.

During her career, Monique worked in-house for Canadian broadcasters as General Counsel, as well as Vice-President of Regulatory and Business Affairs. She has also overseen public policy and regulatory matters for a national association of audiovisual content creators. Earlier in her career, Monique had the opportunity of working in McCarthy Tétrault's Communications and Technology Law Group, serving both domestic and international clients. In addition to her law degree, Monique holds a master's degree in communications law.

**MARGOT PATTERSON** is Counsel with Dentons Canada's Communications, Competition, Intellectual Property, and Media, Entertainment and Sports practice groups, with a practice focused on media, brands and IP. She advises leading businesses in entertainment, media, and e-commerce on growing, promoting and protecting their businesses, in Canada and across borders.

Margot is recommended by Chambers Global, Chambers Canada, the Legal 500 Canada and Best Lawyers in Canada as one of Canada's leading lawyers in Media and Communications Law. She has worked with broadcasters, streaming services and content distributors for over 25 years, helping them navigate Canadian rules and standards and collaborate with their partners, to ensure the successful launch of services in Canada.

Designated by the Law Society of Ontario as a Certified Specialist in Copyright, Margot is formally recognized as a leader in this field. She regularly advises clients on licenses for copyright-protected content, and frequently acts as an expert advisor to international organizations on the Canadian copyright system.

Margot also advises a broad range of clients on advertising and marketing issues, including promotions, brand protection and licensing, competitive disputes, and direct-to-consumer communications.

Before joining Dentons, Margot was General Counsel and Vice-President, Legal Affairs for the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

## **10:00 Short Track**

### **Indigenous Connectivity Developments**

**MARK SAUNDERS** brings 15 years of experience in spectrum management at Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada, where he has played a pivotal role in shaping consultations and licensing frameworks for various spectrum bands. Currently, he leads a dynamic team within the spectrum policy branch focused on enhancing spectrum access for Indigenous businesses, communities, and service providers. This role is a meaningful convergence of Mark's professional expertise and personal commitment, as he is both a dedicated public servant and a proud member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Outside of work, Mark stays active by chasing after his two young daughters (ages 2 and 5), and enjoys playing hockey, baseball, and running.

A member of M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, **MATTHEW BISSON** is a Professional Communicator and Team Manager, currently leading the new Indigenous Relations Team with the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Prior to joining the CRTC in 2023, he spent a year working as a Communications Officer with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). He spent 20 years in radio and television, most recently working as the Station Manager, News Anchor and Program Host for 95.7 ELMNT FM, First Peoples Radio in Ottawa. Prior to that, he served as a Program Director, Station Manager, Program Host, and News

Anchor/Reporter for Bell Media in Kingston, Rogers Media in Ottawa, Corus Entertainment in Edmonton, and CFRC, Queen's University Radio in Kingston.

#### **10:15 Short Track**

##### **Trade Policy and Platform Regulation**

**PETER S. GRANT** is an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, and at the Schulich School of Business, York University. He is a retired Senior Counsel at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, one of Canada's largest law firms. For many years he was the head of its Communications Group. Peter pioneered the field of communications law in Canada, and for over 50 years his practice was substantially devoted to this field, including broadcasting and cable television licensing, satellite services, copyright negotiations, cultural industries, and telecommunications regulation.

Peter is the author or co-author of numerous articles, books and publications, including *Blockbusters and Trade Wars: Popular Culture in a Globalized World* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2004), *Canadian Broadcasting Regulatory Handbook*, now in its 14th edition, and *Communications Law and the Courts in Canada*, now in its third edition. In 2013, The Porcupine's Quill published Peter's autobiography, entitled *Changing Channels: Confessions of a Canadian Communications Lawyer*. Peter was one of six experts on the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel, which published its report, *Canada's Communications Future: Time to Act*, in January 2020.

#### **10:30 Short Track**

##### **Digital Advertising and Its Impacts on Canadian Media**

**MARLA BOLTMAN** is the Executive Director of Friends of Canadian Media. She is a trusted and passionate advocate for the Canadian media sector, with more than 25 years of experience in policy and regulatory matters, content production, and entertainment law.

Marla has appeared before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and Parliamentary committees on matters relating to public broadcasting, journalism and Canadian content production. She frequently provides commentary for various media outlets such as The Globe & Mail, the National Post, and the Toronto Star.

Prior to joining Friends of Canadian Media, Marla served as Senior Vice President at Halfire Entertainment and, prior to that, General Counsel and Vice President at the Canadian Media Producers Association.

Marla completed her JD at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. She has a BAA in Radio and Television Arts from Toronto Metropolitan University and a BA in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario.

## 10:45 Short Track

### Update on Mobile Virtual Network Operators and High-Speed Access Frameworks

**DENNIS BÉLAND** is an independent consultant specializing in telecommunications regulation. From 2004 to 2022, he held a series of senior positions at Quebecor Media Inc., including Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs, Telecommunications. In this capacity, Dennis was responsible for regulatory policy and compliance for Quebecor Media's telecom subsidiaries, most notably Videotron Ltd., in areas including mobile wireless service, Internet access and local telephony.

Prior to joining Quebecor Media, he was Director, Regulatory Affairs at Microcell Solutions Inc., North America's first mobile wireless Competitive Local Exchange Carrier. Dennis began his career in the Economic Development Policy Branch of the federal Department of Finance. He holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and Management from McMaster University and a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.

## 11:15 Panel

### AI, Disinformation and Elections

*Moderator:* **OMAYRA ISSA** is an award-winning journalist and anchor, who has built a rich and diverse portfolio over the course of 15 years in broadcasting. She began her career at Radio-Canada creating compelling content on television, radio and digital platforms, and then for CBC News.

During her time at CBC, she co-created, co-produced and led the *Black on the Prairies* series, which received international recognition and reached an audience of millions. A former national reporter for CBC News, Omayra served as a correspondent on the flagship show *The National*, reporting on pressing stories, including COVID-19, climate change, and Big Tech. In 2022, she was awarded a William Southam Fellowship at Massey College, one of the world's most prestigious fellowships in journalism.

Omayra's work led to impactful changes in education policy and garnered several RTDNA Canada, celebrating the best in Canadian journalism, and Digital Publishing Awards. As a result, Omayra became the first Black woman journalist to present the prestigious Kesterton Lecture in Journalism at Carleton University.

Omayra brought her strong vision to CPAC in 2024, as part of its on-air team connecting Canadians to their democracy. Her work guiding national conversations around inclusion and diversity in newsrooms has set her apart as an innovator and changemaker. She has been recognized with the Reelword Trailblazers Award for inspiring others by blazing a trail of excellence through her constant and committed efforts to improve and diversify the film and television industry.

Omayra is a former board member of the Canadian Association of Journalists. She has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2024, one of Canada's Top 100 Black Women to Watch and nominated for a YWCA Woman of Distinction. Fluent in five languages, Omayra is a sought-after moderator in Canada and globally who has interviewed heads of states, business leaders, and community builders.

**CAROLINE J. SIMARD** is an accomplished lawyer, executive, and lecturer. She began her ten-year term as the Commissioner of Canada Elections in August of 2022. As Commissioner, she is responsible for enforcing compliance with Canada's federal election law, a mandate that contributes to safeguarding electoral integrity, ensuring transparency and accountability and requires her team to navigate the challenges of an ever-evolving legal, technical, and political landscape.

With extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, at local, national, and international levels, Caroline brings a comprehensive and balanced perspective on democracy, communication security, and issues of compliance and enforcement. Before assuming the role of Commissioner, she served as Vice-Chairperson of Broadcasting at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and spent ten years as legal advisor for the Department of Justice in Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada's telecommunications law team. She has also worked as a Senior Telecommunications Specialist for the International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations agency.

Caroline was sworn in as a lawyer in 1994, and holds both a Master's and Doctor of Laws, having been awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship.

A strong advocate for work-life balance, Caroline enjoys mentoring the next generation of professionals. She is deeply committed to pediatric cancer causes and, in her free time, enjoys outdoor sports and cultural activities.

Dr. **DON LENIHAN** is President and CEO of Middle Ground Policy Research. He is an internationally recognized expert on public engagement, governance, policy development, and organizational change.

Don has over 25 years' experience as a project leader, researcher, writer, speaker, senior government advisor, trainer, and facilitator. Throughout his career, he has developed and led many research and consultation projects involving senior public servants, academics, elected officials, journalists, and members of the private and third sectors from across the country.

He is the author of numerous articles, studies, and books and writes a weekly column on artificial intelligence for National Newswatch, Canada's preeminent political news aggregator. He earned his PhD in political theory from the University of Ottawa and is bilingual (English/French).

Don previously co-chaired and co-founded the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) Practice Group on Dialogue and Deliberation, an international panel of experts who were assembled to develop a methodology for public deliberation processes. The Group published four major papers on the topic, with Don as the principal writer.

Dr. **ELIZABETH DUBOIS** (PhD, University of Oxford) is an Associate Professor and University Research Chair in Politics, Communication and Technology at the University of Ottawa. She also leads the multi-disciplinary Pol Comm Tech Lab, which includes political scientists, computer scientists, and communication students and is a member of the Center for Law, Technology and Society. She is also a Faculty Associate and former Fellow at the Berkman-Klein Center at Harvard University and an Affiliate at the Center for Information, Technology and Public Life at University of North Carolina. Her work examines political uses of digital media, including artificial intelligence, political social media influencers, and online harassment of public figures. In 2019, she co-led the Digital Ecosystem Research Challenge, which brought together 18 research teams to examine uses of digital media in the 2019 Federal Election in Canada.

She collaborates internationally with non-profits, technology companies, journalists, and academics. She also hosts the Wonks and War Rooms podcast where political communication theory meets on the ground strategy. Her public writing has appeared in Maclean's, The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, Policy Options, The Conversation, Salon and been featured in many others. Find more about her work at [www.polcommtech.ca](http://www.polcommtech.ca).

**FRANK GRAVES** is the founder and CEO of EKOS Research. He has been at the forefront of polling and survey research in Canada for decades. He was a founding board member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and is a lifetime fellow of CRIC. Mr. Graves is also a fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute (CGAI), the University of Calgary School of Public Policy, and several other organizations. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and teaches a graduate course on the past and future of survey methodology. He has also been awarded an Honourary Doctor of Laws by Carleton University.

### **12:15 Lunch Keynote**

**RYAN STRASCHNITZKI** is a former hockey player who played for the Humboldt Broncos for the 2018-2019 season. He is the founder of the Straz Strong charity organization and is in current pursuits to play in the Paralympics one day.

He attends physiotherapy regularly to achieve his dream of walking again someday. Through his commitment and determination, he is making progress at each and every session.

Ryan's journey has not been an easy one. He understands that each and every day will be a battle not just physically, but mentally as well.

He enjoys public speaking where he spreads messages of positivity and motivation to those looking for ways to adapt and change their lives for the better.

### 13:45 Panel

#### Competition Act Changes

*Moderator:* **DAVID REEVELY** is an Ottawa correspondent for *The Logic*, covering telecom, competition, infrastructure, security, health and space. He was previously the news editor and then bureau chief for The Canadian Press in Ottawa, supervising coverage of all aspects of Canada's federal government for the national wire service. Before that, he covered politics for the *Ottawa Citizen* as a reporter and columnist, focusing at different times on local affairs, the Ontario government and the place of the federal government in the capital.

**ELISA KEARNEY** is a partner at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP. She has a broad regulatory practice with a specialization in competition and foreign investment law. With vast knowledge of Canada's regulatory framework, she provides strategic advice on numerous federal statutes to domestic and international clients interfacing with the Canadian government. Clients turn to Elisa to advise on the full range of antitrust, consumer protection and privacy matters, from multijurisdictional merger controls and cartel investigations to reviewable conduct, misleading advertising and ecommerce. She also counsels clients on foreign ownership and control restrictions. Elisa just completed her term as Chair of the Canadian Bar Association, Section of Competition Law and Foreign Investment Review.

**KELDON BESTER** is the Executive Director of the Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project (CAMP) and a fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). He is a leading voice in Canada's competition policy conversation, and his writing and thinking have been featured in *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post* and *Toronto Star*. Keldon has worked as a special adviser at Canada's Competition Bureau, as a fellow at the Open Markets Institute in Washington DC.

Dr. **RENÉE DUPLANTIS**, Vice President and Leader of Charles River Associates' Canadian Competition team, has more than 20 years of experience involving complex competition matters in Canada, the United States, and Europe. In addition to her merger expertise, Dr. Duplantis has been engaged on competition matters involving allegations of abuse of dominance, exclusionary conduct, monopolization, collusion, and price-fixing. She has testified before the Canadian Competition Tribunal and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and has authored reports and presented findings to competition agencies globally, including the Canadian Competition Bureau, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, and the European Commission Directorate-General for Competition and the Chief Economist Team. Prior to her recent economic consulting career, Dr. Duplantis held various positions at the Canadian Competition Bureau, including as the T.D. MacDonald Chair in Industrial Economics (Chief Economist).

### 14:45 Short Track

#### Towards a National Strategy on Online Gambling

**MATTHEW M. YOUNG**, Ph.D., is Chief Research Officer at Greo Evidence Insights, a not-for-profit research and knowledge translation organization that works internationally, primarily in fields of mental health and addiction. Before joining Greo he worked for 12 years at the Canadian Centre on Substance

Use and Addiction (CCSA) where he is now a Senior Research Associate. In addition to these appointments Dr. Young is also an Adjunct Research Professor of Psychology at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Dr. Young has been working in the mental health, gambling, substance use, and addiction for over 30 years. He is well published in both the academic and grey literature and has served on numerous domestic and international advisory committees overseeing the monitoring and surveillance of addictive behaviours.

Among his contributions to mental health and addiction, Dr. Young was principal investigator and co-chair of the scientific committee that estimated the costs and harms of substance use in Canada (Canadian substance use Costs and Harms project); he led the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU) when the network issued one of the first public health alerts on the presence of fentanyl in the unregulated drug supply; he was a member of the scientific expert panel that developed Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health; he was principal investigator and co-chair of the scientific committee who developed the world's first lower risk gambling guidelines; and did his doctoral work investigating craving among people who gamble.

#### **15:00 Short Track**

##### **AI and Energy Demands**

**JULIA MUGGERIDGE** is the Vice President, Communications and Sustainability at Electricity Canada. She has been with the organization since 2018 when she started as Director of Communications. Responsible for Electricity Canada's Communications and Marketing department, Julia oversees public affairs, the sustainability program, all Electricity events, and the Customer Council department.

Prior to working at Electricity Canada, Julia worked as a Hill staffer, managed a brand consulting firm, Aubs & Mugg, and worked as a Communications Consultant on capital projects at Toronto Hydro. She is a graduate of the University of Waterloo in Political Science and Business and has a Master's in Communications from the University of Ottawa. Julia is also an avid runner, very amateur pianist and mother of four daughters.

#### **15:15 Short Track**

##### **Future of the CBC and Radio-Canada: A View from the Senate**

**SENATOR ANDREW CARDOZO** is a policy expert, a columnist, and an artist. His areas of expertise span Canadian government and politics, broadcasting and cultural policy, multiculturalism and diversity and skills development: especially the future of work. Senator Cardozo was appointed to the Senate by Governor General, Mary Simon on the advice of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in November 2022. Since becoming a Senator, he has been part of the Progressive Senate Group. As an expert in communications policy, Senator Cardozo has sought to prioritize issues of polarization in political discourse and the crisis afflicting Canada's news media sector. He is a member of the National Security, Defence and Veteran Affairs committee of the Senate and the Transportation and Communications committee and chairs the Arts and Heritage Working Group.

Before joining the Senate, he was the President and co-founder of the Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Alliance of Sector Councils working on skills development across thirty economic sectors, and Executive Director of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, where he worked on policies and legislation in employment equity, immigration, multiculturalism, and the Canadian constitution.

Over the years Senator Cardozo has been a columnist for the *Toronto Star* and *Broadcast Dialogue*, and the *Hill Times*. He has served as a Commissioner of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) where he championed Canadian content and diversity in broadcasting. Notably, he played a key role in the licensing of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

He has been the recipient of numerous awards: the 2023 DreamKeepers Citation for Outstanding Leadership award, the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal, the Reelworld Film Festival Guardian Angel Award (Toronto), le Prix annuel du Centre de recherche-action sur les relations sociales, CRARR (Montreal), Big Brother of the Year (Ottawa), and, most recently, the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

#### **15:45 Panel**

##### **AI and Regulatory Responses**

**BARRY SOOKMAN** is Senior Counsel in McCarthy Tétrault's Technology Law Group. He is also the former leader of the firm's Intellectual Property Group. He is one of Canada's foremost authorities in information technology, Internet, copyright, artificial intelligence, and privacy law. Barry acts in connection with complex IT/AI/IP transactions and defense procurements and in IT/IP litigation. He has argued numerous precedent-setting cases at all levels of courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Author's blog at [www.barrysookman.com](http://www.barrysookman.com)

**CAROLE PIOVESAN** is co-founder and principal at INQ Consulting, focusing her practice on privacy, cyber readiness, data governance and artificial intelligence (AI) risk management. A trained lawyer, she regularly advises clients on a wide range of matters related to privacy, cyber readiness and breach response, data governance, ethical AI and responsible innovation.

Carole plays an active role in shaping data law, policy and standards in Canada and globally. She is a member of the OECD.AI Policy Observatory, and has contributed to numerous organizations including in the Global Partnership on AI, the Global Task Force to Promote Trusted Sharing of Data at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Standards Council of Canada's Data Governance Collaborative, and the National Advisory Council on AI in Healthcare.

Carole regularly teaches, speaks and writes on topics related to cybersecurity, privacy, data law and AI. She has been featured on the CBC, the Globe and Mail, The Logic, and Betakit. She has testified before Canada's House of Commons Industry Committee on Canada's draft AI law and Canada's House of

Commons Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics. Carole regularly lectures at the Institute of Corporate Directors. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law where she lectures on AI regulation. She is the co-editor of *Leading Legal Disruption: Artificial Intelligence and a Toolkit for Lawyers and the Law*, published by Thomson Reuters (2021).

Carole was appointed by the federal Minister of Innovation to serve as one of six Digital Leaders in the national data and digital transformation consultations. In this role, she led consultations with businesses, academics, civil society and industry associations to inform the first national Digital Charter. Announced on May 21, 2019, the Digital Charter has led to significant proposed reforms to Canada's federal private sector privacy law.

Dr. **TERESA SCASSA** is the Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law. She is the author or co-author of several books, including: *The Future of Open Data* (uOttawa Press 2022); *Artificial Intelligence and the Law in Canada* (LexisNexis 2021); *Digital Commerce in Canada* (LexisNexis 2020); *Law and the Sharing Economy* (uOttawa Press 2018); and *Canadian Trademark Law* (2d edition, LexisNexis 2015). She is a member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society, as well as the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics. She serves in a volunteer capacity on numerous advisory bodies, including the Canadian Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence and the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner's Strategic Advisory Council. She is also the Chair of Ontario's AI Expert Working Group.

Dr. Scassa's has written widely in the areas of privacy law, the regulation of artificial intelligence, data governance and intellectual property law. In 2024 she was awarded the PICCASSO Award in the category of Privacy Leader Academia/Thought Leader and has written widely in the areas of intellectual property law, law and technology, and privacy. Many of her published papers can be found on SSRN.com. Her blog on current issues in her field of expertise can be found at [www.teresascassa.ca](http://www.teresascassa.ca).

### **16:45 Keynote**

**ANDREW N. FERGUSON** was sworn in April 2, 2024 as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. Commissioner Ferguson most recently served as solicitor general of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to that position, he served as chief counsel to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, and as a Republican counsel on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He also practiced law at several Washington, D.C. law firms. He earned his undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Virginia. After law school, he clerked for Judge Karen L. Henderson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.