



IIC Canada 2018 Conference

Canadian Communications Policy and Legislation: Time for a Review

Speaker Profiles

Thursday, November 1

ERWIN HUDSON is Vice President, Telesat LEO. He is responsible for directing the development and implementation of Telesat's planned LEO satellite constellation that will offer high throughput, low latency communications on a global basis.

Erwin is one of the industry's most experienced executives in satellite-enabled broadband networks. He was Chief Technology Officer at WildBlue Communications, an early satellite broadband provider later acquired by ViaSat, that began building its U.S. subscriber base using the Ka-band spot beams on Telesat's Anik F2 satellite. Prior to WildBlue, Erwin was a senior executive at Space Systems Loral and, before that he was Director Satellite Communications at TRW Space & Electronics.

Erwin recently led the ViaSat team that NBN Co selected to provide the ground infrastructure for the satellite portion of Australia's National Broadband Network. He holds a number of patents and his innovations, technical and commercial, have driven the growth of satellite broadband in markets around the world. Erwin earned an Electrical Engineering degree from North Carolina State University, a master's in electrical engineering from The Ohio State University, and a Professional Engineers Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

JESSE WENTE is an Ojibwe writer, broadcaster, producer and speaker. Born and raised in Toronto, his family hails from Chicago and the Serpent River First Nation. Jesse is best known for his 22 years as a columnist for CBC Radio's Metro Morning and he spent 11 years with the Toronto International Film Festival, the last seven as the Head of TIFF Cinematheque.

Jesse is currently co-producing his first film, a screen adaptation of Thomas King's best-selling book, *The Inconvenient Indian*. An outspoken advocate for Indigenous rights and First Nations, Metis and Inuit art, he has spoken at the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Canadian Arts Summit, the Cultural Summit of the Americas, and numerous Universities and Colleges.

This November, Jesse will deliver the annual Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture at the Royal Ontario Museum. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council. In 2017, he was named the inaugural recipient of the Reelworld Film Festival's Reel Activist Award and recently received the Association of Ontario

Health Centres' Media Award for 2018. Jesse is currently working on his first book for Penguin Random House Canada and in February, he started a new role as the first Director of the Indigenous Screen Office in Canada.

CHRISTA DICKENSON is the Executive Director of Telefilm Canada. She has over two decades of experience spanning broadcast television, technology, telecommunications and interactive digital media, having worked at CTV, CPAC, Rogers and Interactive Ontario. Christa possesses an un-paralleled talent for innovation coupled with a strong business acumen. With brand advocacy expertise honed over many years, she is a highly effective screen-based industries advocate and spokesperson. In addition to a professional background spanning both the creative and business sides of the broadcast, technology, telecommunications and interactive digital media industries, Christa has a BAH and Master of Fine Arts in Film Studies.

JOHN LAWFORD is Executive Director and General Counsel of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), a national non-profit organization that provides legal and research services on behalf of consumer interests, and, in particular, vulnerable consumer interests, concerning the provision of important public services. He has been with PIAC since July 2003 and was named Executive Director in September 2012.

Prior to coming to PIAC, John was a research counsel at a major national law firm specializing in medical-legal research. He was also Research Director at a major Ottawa-based litigation firm. He was Special Projects Director for QUICKLAW Inc., a legal database company and now part of LexisNexis Canada, from 1992 to 1999. He has an undergraduate degree in English and a Law degree from Queen's University.

John manages PIAC's advocacy and research in the areas of telecommunications, broadcasting, competition, e-commerce, privacy and financial services law and policy from a consumer perspective.