



July 22, 2021

The Empire Club of Canada Announces 2021-22 Board of Directors

The Empire Club of Canada is pleased to announce its Board of Directors for its 118th season.

As Canada's go-to forum for conversations that matter, the Empire Club of Canada's Board of Directors play an integral role in supporting the organization's mission through the development and production of over 40 events annually, including its signature "Nation Builder of the Year Award".

On Thursday, June 24th at the Empire Club's Annual General Meeting, 35 Directors were elected to the 2021-2022 Board, including a new President, Kelly Jackson.

"Public dialogue has immense power to connect people to ideas and each other. For more than a century, the Empire Club of Canada has been a platform for critical conversations and as a club of record continues to uniquely chronicle this public discourse," said Jackson. "I am excited to see how the diverse experiences and perspectives of our Board members will help build on that legacy and create new opportunities for Canadians to engage on the important issues of our time."

The past season offered virtual events only due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, engaging audiences across the country and abroad. The Club is optimistic that the upcoming season will see its virtual events complemented with the return of in-person events as soon as it is safe and viable.

Board of Directors 2021-2022 Season

Simmer Anand
Manager, Indigenous Relations, Hydro One Networks

Chris Benedetti
Managing Partner, Sussex Strategy Group

Carrie Bois, Treasurer
Chief Executive Officer, C+B Consulting

Megan Boyle
Director of Public Affairs, Red Bull Canada

Richard Carleton
CEO, Canadian Securities Exchange

Matthew Cauz
Radio Host, TSN 1050

Shakir Chambers
Principal, Earncliffe Strategy Group

Pierre Cyr
Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs, Fleishman Hillard HighRoad, Ottawa

Jenna Donelson, Secretary
Public Affairs Manager, Humber College

Kent Emerson
Principal, Valorem Insights

Dr. Mohamad Fakih
President & CEO, Paramount Fine Foods, Voice of UNHCR Canada: The UN Agency in Canada

Kulvir Singh Gill, 3rd Vice-President
Senior Strategist, Clareo

Kelly Jackson, President
Associate Vice-President, Government Relations, Marketing and Communications, Humber College

Barbara Jesson
President and CEO, Jesson Communications

John J. Kirton
Director, G7 Research Group, G20 Research Group, BRICS Research Group; Professor, Political Science,
University of Toronto

Michael Kobzar
Director of Sales, Power Transmission & Distribution, Ontario, Siemens Energy Canada

Arthur Kong
Director of Project Development, Next Generation Manufacturing Canada

Atrisha Lewis
Partner, McCarthy Tetrault

Dr. Gordon K. McIvor
President, Empire Club Foundation

Carla Nell
President & Chief Executive Officer, Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Tenny Nigoghossian
Fundraising and Strategic Consultant, Arts & Culture Sector

Farah Qasemi
Lead Account Partner, IBM

Sal Rabbani, 1st Vice-President
Managing Partner, BDC Advisory Services, Business Development Bank of Canada

Keerthana Rang
Director, Communications, Radical Ventures

Rick Roth
Vice-President, Strategic Communications, Global Public Affairs, Ontario

Daniel Safayeni
Vice-President, Policy, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Marsha Seca
Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs, Edelman

Natasha Smith
Partner, Miller Thomson LLP

Tim Smitheman
Vice-President, Rubicon Strategies

Antoinette Tummillo, Immediate Past President
President, Antoinette Tummillo & Associates Inc.

Sue VanderBent
CEO, Home Care Ontario

Michael Van Soelen
Managing Principal, Navigator Ltd.

Jan Westcott, 2nd Vice-President
President & CEO, Spirits Canada

William (Bill) F. White
Chairman, IBK Capital Corp.

Paul M. Yeung
Director of Public Affairs, JTI-Macdonald Corp.