



The Empire Club of Canada Announces 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Experienced, diverse team of 38 directors to provide insight and guidance in advancing public dialogue

(TORONTO, ON) June 30, 2023 – The Empire Club of Canada – Canada’s go-to forum for conversations that matter – closed a robust 119th season during which it welcomed 13,000 people to its virtual and in-person events, while continuing to focus on maintaining the club’s commitment to equity and quality.

“At the Empire Club, we pride ourselves on offering a platform for meaningful connections and productive dialogue on topics that impact Canadians and the world. We’ve been delivering in this mission for 119 years and we will continue to do so in the future,” said President of the Board of Directors, Sal Rabbani.

“Over the past season, we were more intentional about engaging the young generation through our events. Young people are the future. We need to have them at our events, shaping the public discourse and enriching our conversations,” he added.

On June 22, 2023, at the Empire Club’s Annual General Meeting, 38 board directors were appointed for the 120th season. The Empire Club of Canada’s Board of Directors plays an integral role in supporting the organization’s mission through the development and production of dozens of events annually, including its signature “Nation Builder of the Year Award.”

Sal Rabbani was reappointed for a second term as President of the Board. Sal has nearly 20 years of experience working with Canadian businesses and is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusivity. He serves as a trusted advisor to Canadian SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and is focused on supporting business owners as they overcome challenges and hit their next growth milestones.

“It’s an honour to lead the club through a second term,” said Sal. “We enter our 120th season with a team of experienced, diverse and engaged directors. Our board members cumulate more than 570 years of experience in business and a strong track-record of leading teams in some of Canada’s more innovative organizations.”

The Club and its directors are optimistic about the future of Canadian thought leadership continuing to play a crucial role in fostering intellectual growth and driving meaningful discussions.



Board of Directors 2023-2024 Season

Executive Officers:

[Sal Rabbani](#), President
Managing Partner, Advisory Services
Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

[Jenna Donelson](#), 1st Vice-President
Executive Director, Government Relations
Queens University

[Saurabh Popat](#), 2nd Vice-President
Director of Business Development, Ontario
Telus Health

[Marsha Seca](#), 3rd Vice-President

[Carrie Bois](#), Treasurer
Chief Executive Officer
C+B Consulting

[Rick Roth](#), Secretary
Vice-President, Strategic Communications, Ontario
Global Public Affairs

Board Members:

[Simmer Anand](#)
Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations
Hydro One Networks

[Amanda Bassin](#), CPA, CA
Founder & President
Persuit Group Inc.

[Lori-Ann Beausoleil](#), FCPA, FCA
Corporate Director, Audit Committee Chair
Strategic Business Advisor and
Retired PricewaterhouseCoopers Deals and Advisory Partner

[Chris Benedetti](#)
Managing Partner
Sussex Strategy Group



[Megan Boyle](#)

Senior Director, Government Affairs
Red Bull North America

[Richard Carleton](#)

CEO
Canadian Securities Exchange

[Shakir Chambers](#)

Principal
Earncliffe Strategy Group

[Kent Emerson](#), Past President

Principal
Valorem Insights

[Kulvir Singh Gill](#)

Senior Strategist
Clareo

[Kelly Jackson](#), Past President

Vice-President, External Affairs and Professional Learning
Humber College

[Dr. Rahim Karim](#)

President & CEO
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine

[John J. Kirton](#)

Director, G7 Research Group, G20 Research Group, BRICS Research Group;
Professor Emeritus, Political Science
University of Toronto

[Michael Kobzar](#)

National Director of Sales, Transmission Systems,
Siemens Energy Canada

[Arthur Kong](#)

Director of Project Development,
Next Generation Manufacturing Canada

[Sarah Letersky](#)

Senior Vice-President & National Health Practice Lead
Rubicon Strategy



[Atrisha Lewis](#)

Partner
McCarthy Tetrault

[Sean McCaughan](#)

EVP, Chief Operating and Strategy Officer
OEC

[Dr. Gordon K. McIvor](#), Past President

President
Empire Club Foundation

[John McKenna](#)

[Sheamus Murphy](#)

Partner & Federal Practice Lead,
Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

[Carla Y. Nell](#)

Vice-President, Corporate Relations, Stakeholder Engagement and Innovation
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

Tenny Nigoghossian

Fundraising and Strategic Consultant, Arts & Culture Sector

[Farah Qasemi](#)

Partner, Financial Services Markets
Ernst & Young

[Daniel Safayeni](#)

Vice-President, Policy
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

[Natasha Smith](#)

Partner
Miller Thomson LLP

[Benjie Thomas](#), FCPA, FCA

Canadian Managing Partner, Advisory
KPMG LLP

[Caitlin Tolley](#)

Legal Counsel, Indigenous Justice Division
Minister of the Attorney General, Ontario



[Antoinette Tummillo](#), Past President
President
Antoinette Tummillo & Associates Inc.

[Sue VanderBent](#)
CEO
Home Care Ontario

[Mike Van Soelen](#), Past President
Managing Principal
Navigator Ltd.

[Flavio Volpe](#)
President
Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association

[Paul M. Yeung](#)
Director of Public Affairs
JTI-Macdonald Corp.

About The Empire Club of Canada

Established in 1903, the Empire Club of Canada, a non-profit organization, is celebrating its 120th Season. As Canada's go-to forum for conversations that matter, the Empire Club produces more than 40 thought leadership events annually that connect people to ideas and each other.

For media inquiries or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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