NOVEMBER 2 TO 4, 2026

CCRE Annual Energy Leaders Roundtable

Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, Kananaskis, Alberta

Keynote Speakers



Corey Hogan

Corey Hogan is the Member of Parliament for Calgary Confederation and serves as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources with a focus on Canada's forestry sector. He sits on the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and the Special Joint Committee on the Exercise of Powers Under the *Building Canada Act*. In his first year in office, Corey has engaged extensively on energy affordability, grid modernization, and resource sector competitiveness.

Before entering public office, Corey was Vice President at the University of Calgary and previously served as Chief Executive for Alberta's Department of Communications and Public Engagement under two premiers. His career also includes experience as an entrepreneur and strategy consultant, advising some of the world's largest corporations. He holds an MBA from the Ivey Business School at Western University.



Janet Brown

Janet Brown is the Principal of Janet Brown Opinion Research and is Alberta's most recognized pollster and political analyst. With more than 35 years of experience in public opinion polling and market research, Janet has developed a knack for asking the right people the right questions. Together with Trend Research, Janet conducted the most accurate publicly released polls during both the 2019 and 2023 Alberta provincial elections.

Janet began her career in public opinion research in 1988 and began tracking Alberta provincial politics in 1992. Throughout her career, Janet has managed research assignments for all levels of government and numerous private sector organizations. She has extensive experience in both quantitative and qualitative research, having designed and managed hundreds of custom research projects.

Janet is often invited to speak about political and social trends. She is a regular commentator on CBC Calgary, Alberta Primetime on CTV2, and the West of Centre podcast. In partnership with journalist Paul McLoughlin, Janet publishes the Wild Ride Update, a quarterly report that weaves political insight with proprietary polling. This report goes beyond the "horse race" numbers to identify the underlying dynamics driving public opinion in Alberta.

Janet continues to be active in the academic community. In June 2026, she delivered the Keynote Address at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference in Ottawa, and she regularly delivers guest lectures at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University. Janet recently contributed chapters to "Orange Chinook: Politics in the New Alberta" (University of Calgary Press, January 2019) and "Anger and Angst: Jason Kenney's Legacy and Alberta's Right" (Black Rose Books, April 2023).

Janet holds a B.A. (Hons) in Political Science from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. She also pursued graduate studies at York University in Toronto and studied International Development and International Law at the London School of Economics in London, England.

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Keynote Speakers



Greg Lyle

Greg Lyle is the Founder and President of Innovative Research Group Inc. (INNOVATIVE), a national public opinion research and consultation firm with offices in Toronto and Vancouver. INNOVATIVE is focused on connecting its clients with the audiences that are critical to achieving their goals.

As a former principal secretary to Manitoba premier Gary Filmon, Greg has built a career at the intersection of public opinion, communications, and public policy. With over 30 years of communications and opinion research experience, Greg and his team of twenty-five researchers use a full range of research tools to provide strategic counsel to public, private and not-for-profit clients across a variety of sectors including financial services, transportation, resource industries, energy, and health care.

Greg has a strong background in energy. Since 2007, INNOVATIVE has run an annual national study on siting infrastructure that has tracked views on pipelines, shale gas, electricity transmission and various forms of generations. INNOVATIVE's custom clients include pipelines, petroleum producers, electricity generators, transmission companies, distributors, and regulators.

Much of Greg's current work has focused on social permission. On issues ranging from toll roads to higher electricity rates to wind farms and transmission lines, INNOVATIVE has delivered strategic and communications research as well as running research-based public consultations.

Greg's polls have been highlighted in such media as the Economist, the Wall Street Journal and most Canadian news outlets. In 2016, Greg received the Public Affairs Association of Canada Award of Distinction. He also holds the Certified Analytics and Insights Profession (CAIP) designation.

Greg splits his time between Vancouver and Toronto with regular stops in Calgary and lives in Gibsons, BC.

Roundtable Speakers

Chris Benedetti

Chris Benedetti is a Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer with Sussex Strategy Group. With experience in both federal and provincial governments, Mr. Benedetti provides an in-depth insight and expertise into various policy development and political processes and has an extensive background in strategic communications, advisory services, and public affairs.

For over 25 years he has helped clients to better understand policy and political imperatives and has worked with governments at all levels to support results-based decision-making. He is an expert in energy-related matters, infrastructure, trade and the environment, as well as in public administration and political affairs. He has also spoken at numerous conferences and has been published in several leading journals.

While managing the interests of several high-profile public and private sector clients, Mr. Benedetti serves as an elected Board Director of the Ontario Energy Association, the Association of Power Producers of Ontario, and Outward Bound Canada. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Red Jar Capital and the CEO Council of the Empire Club of Canada. He also previously served as Chair of the Recycling Council of Ontario, Director of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, President of the Public Affairs Association of Canada, Board Director of the Toronto ZooShare Biogas Cooperative, and Senior Advisor to the Canada-Europe Roundtable for Business. He has also been a member of the Energy Policy Council of the C.D. Howe Institute.

In March 2025, Mr. Benedetti received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his exceptional contribution to Canada in the fields of environmental stewardship and youth education. He was also selected in 2024 as the Hedley Palmer award winner from the Association of Power Producers of Ontario. The Hedley Palmer Award recognizes individuals who have contributed exceptional contributions to Ontario's power generation industry.

Prior to joining Sussex, Mr. Benedetti was Vice President and Government Relations Practice Leader for a global public affairs and communications company. He has held several positions in the federal government with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and as a political advisor within the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada.

Mr. Benedetti holds a BA in law and a BA (High Hons.) in political science from Carleton University, and an MA in political science (International Relations) from McMaster University and the University of Bath, England. Active in his local community, Mr. Benedetti has served as President of Horizons for Youth, a United Way agency and one of Toronto's largest youth shelters, and is a former Director for Common Ground Co-Operative, providing business training opportunities for individuals with development disabilities

Marc Brouillette

Marc Brouillette is the principal consultant at Strategic Policy Economics focusing on the strategic and economic implications of climate and energy policies in Canada with a specific focus on Ontario's electricity sector. Areas of expertise include decarbonization of the economy, the role of renewables, nuclear generation, transmission interties, and the hydrogen economy. Marc's published works include the implementation challenges, options, and costs of reducing emissions, an analysis of the opportunities for a National Energy Vision for Canada, an outlook on the demand for nuclear energy in Canada, and several *CCRE Commentaries*.

Paul Cheliak

Paul Cheliak is Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Gas Association (CGA), the national voice of Canada's natural gas delivery industry. CGA's members operate energy infrastructure serving more than 20 million Canadians and delivering 40 per cent of the country's energy needs. Paul is responsible for the association's strategic planning and working with staff to turn the industry's vision into practical results. Prior to joining CGA, he worked at Natural Resources Canada providing natural gas market and policy advice to senior federal decision-makers and previously worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He lives in Ottawa, Ontario with his wife and two daughters.

Blaine Collett

Blaine Collett is a Senior Advisor of Project Development at the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC). He brings over 20 years of leadership experience in Indigenous relations, stakeholder engagement, and large-scale project development across Canada's energy, infrastructure, and resource sectors.

Blaine has held senior roles with Indigenous development corporations and national construction and engineering firms. He has been actively involved in the planning, development, and maintenance of major energy infrastructure — including both renewable and non-renewable projects — with a focus on ensuring Indigenous inclusion and long-term community benefit.

He is guided by a deep commitment to inclusive, Nation-led development that reflects Indigenous values and priorities. His approach emphasizes capacity building, community strengths, cultural integrity, environmental stewardship, and sustainable planning — ensuring that Indigenous communities are not only consulted but play a central role in shaping and benefiting from the projects that impact their territories.

Aaron Engen

Mr. Engen has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) since August 2024. He first joined the AESO in 2020 as a member of its Board of Directors.

Prior to assuming his current role, Aaron spent 25 years in investment banking, most recently as Vice Chair, Investment & Corporate Banking at BMO Capital Markets. He co-headed the firm's Power & Energy Infrastructure group, focusing on energy infrastructure transactions across North America, including power generation, transmission and distribution, natural gas midstream, and energy storage. He also co-led BMO's Energy Transition group, focusing on emerging sectors such as hydrogen, carbon capture and sequestration, low-carbon fuels, critical minerals, renewable power, and sustainable finance.

Earlier in his career, Aaron was a partner at McCarthy Tétrault, where he practiced corporate and securities law largely in the energy and utilities sectors.

Dale Friesen

Dale Friesen is Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Chief Government Affairs Officer for ATCO. Appointed to the role in 2020, he oversees ATCO's Government Relations and Indigenous Relations teams and provides strategic counsel to the company's Executive Committee on relevant policy and legislative priorities.

As a global enterprise, ATCO Ltd. and its subsidiary and affiliate companies have approximately 20,000 employees and assets of $28 billion. ATCO is focused on delivering essential solutions across the housing, energy and defence sectors, helping build, power, and protect a future everyone can count on. Mr. Friesen has more than 30 years of experience with ATCO. He has served in technical and senior leadership roles in both Canada and Australia and has built and operated several power plants and cogeneration facilities, including the Bulwer Island Cogeneration Plant in Australia as part of the Queensland Clean Fuels Project. He also served as Vice President of ATCO Water, where he was responsible for business development in Canada, Australia, and the UAE.

Dale led ATCO's Sustainability group, which published the company's first-ever Sustainability Report in 2008, incorporating best practices from the Global Reporting Initiative, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. He has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, and his areas of focus include carbon markets, global climate and energy policy, and Indigenous economic reconciliation through the energy transition.

Dale is the past chair of Electricity Canada's Generation Council, a member of Electricity Canada's Board Committee on Economic Growth and Optimization, an Executive Officer of the Alberta Chamber of Resources Board and an Executive Board Member of the Canadian Council of the Americas.

A graduate of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alberta, Mr. Friesen is a member of both the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta and of Engineers Australia.

Robert (RJ) Johnston

Dr. Johnston is the Director of Energy and Natural Resources Policy at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary.

Robert is a recognized leader in global energy and natural resources policy, geopolitics, and corporate strategy. He was most recently Senior Director of Research at the Center on Global Energy Policy at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. He previously served for 15 years as founding director of the Eurasia Group's Energy, Climate and Resources practice and was the firm's CEO from 2013 to 2018. He will officially join the School in August.

Prior to the Eurasia Group, Robert worked as managing director of equity research at Medley Global Advisors, was a research director at UBS Warburg Energy, directed internal research at Enron Global Markets, and directed political risk research at ArmorGroup.

He is an independent advisor to the First Nations Climate Initiative in Canada. He also serves as a counselor for the Canada-U.S. Trade Council and is a member of the Trilateral Commission. From 2017-2021, he was a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center. He was project director for the Aspen Institute's task force on US critical minerals policy in 2023.

Robert holds a doctorate in international relations from American University, a master's degree in political science from McMaster University, and an undergraduate degree in political studies from Bishop's University.

Larry Kaumeyer

Larry Kaumeyer is the former Deputy Minister Energy and Minerals for the Government of Alberta. He has spent the past 25+ years dedicated to the advancement of the province, by working in finance, energy, technology, and strategic leadership for local business, and government.

Larry has worked for the Alberta government on corporate and economic matters and has also served as the Chief Executive Officer of four different organizations over his career. These include a broad range of industries, from manufacturing to energy supply chain, pipeline inspection and earth moving and reclamation.

He was the Chief Executive Officer of Buffalo Inspection Services. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of Infracon Energy Services, Chief Executive Officer & President of Almita Manufacturing Ltd., Vice President of Business Development with Aecon Group Inc., and Vice President at ATB Financial.

His role in Government started with the Department of Finance in 1994 and included recent roles as Principle Secretary and Acting Chief of Staff to Premier Jason Kenney. He has served as co-chair of the Premier's Council on Competition, and as a member of the Alberta Economic Development Authority and Productivity Alberta. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Alberta.

Luticia Miller

Luticia Miller is the Vice President of Project Development, Cree-Metis at the First Nations Major Coalition Project. She has had a notable career in major projects, initially starting as a welding apprentice and subsequently specializing in planning & execution, project controls, contracts & risk management. With over 20 years of experience in industrial construction, her portfolio spans diverse sectors from conventional oil & gas to renewables (including geothermal, wind, & solar), power & transmission, wastewater, infrastructure, and transportation.

Luticia is Cree-Metis, and a champion of First Nations active-equity participation in energy project development as a major contributor to Indigenous health & wealth and to greater levels of project success.

Ms. Miller holds an MBA from Queen's University, Smith School of Business. She has sat on both public and private boards and is an active speaker and contributor to executive education on the topics related to Indigenous Business engagement for corporate Canada.

Ms. Miller is honoured to contribute her projects expertise along with her professional passion for Indigenous economic empowerment to serve FNMPC's valued members.

Rob Morgan

Rob Morgan is the CEO of the Alberta Energy Regulator. He is a Professional Engineer with over 40 years of management, technical, regulatory and operations experience.

Prior to joining the Alberta Energy Regulator, Rob was the President and CEO of Strathcona Resources after joining a legacy company in 2017 and leading the organization through a period of dramatic growth and change.

He was Senior Vice President and COO for Crew Energy from 2011 to 2017 and prior to this, COO Upstream for Harvest Operations Corp. He was Vice President Operations and Corporate Development at Viking Energy Royalty Trust which merged with Harvest Energy Trust in 2006. From 1985 to 2004, Rob held various management, senior technical and operations positions at several upstream energy companies in Western Canada, starting as a field production engineer with Murphy Oil in 1985.

Rob is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a BSc. in Chemical Engineering and a Professional Engineer with APEGA. He was previously a member of the Board of Directors of the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada and the Alberta Securities Commission Energy Advisory Committee.

Greg Orencsak

Greg Orencsak was appointed the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, effective January 19, 2026.

He served as the Deputy Minister of Health with the Government of Canada, from August 19, 2024, until January 16, 2026.

Deputy Minister Orencsak has held other senior leadership positions with the Government of Ontario including Deputy Minister of Finance and, concurrently, Chair of the Ontario Financing Authority, between 2018 and 2024; Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development from 2017-2018; Chair of the Public Service Commission from 2015-2016; Deputy Minister, Secretary of the Treasury Board and Secretary of the Management Board of Cabinet, Treasury Board Secretariat from 2014-2016; and Deputy Minister of Government Services in 2014. Prior to these appointments, he was Associate Deputy Minister of Finance from 2011-2014 and Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance from 2009-2011.

From 2016-2017, he was Partner, Government and Public Sector, and National Leader, Public Policy and Fiscal Innovation, at EY (Ernst and Young).

Greg holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in economics from the University of Toronto.

Hon. Rod Phillips

Rod Phillips is the Chair of the Council for Clean & Reliable Energy. He is a business and public policy leader and lifelong community volunteer. Rod is the Vice Chair of Canaccord Genuity Corporation and a member of the Boards of Aecon Group Inc. (ARE:TO) and Petal Health, a Quebec-based Health Care technology company.

In 2018, he was elected to represent the riding of Ajax and served as the Minister of Finance, the Minister Long Term Care and the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Prior to his public service, Rod was the President and CEO of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and the health and productivity company Morneau-Shepell (Lifeworks). He served as the Chair of the Board of Postmedia Network Inc., Canadian Chair and Global Advisory Board member of AI unicorn Afiniti and served on the corporate boards of Data Communications Management, Top Aces, and the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation. Rod began his career as a management consultant with KPMG and Goodmans LLP and as Chief of Staff to the first Mayor of the amalgamated city of Toronto.

An active community volunteer, Rod served as the Chair of Civic Action and the TELUS Community Fund. He was the founding Chair of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Transforming Lives Gala and a member of the Boards of the Toronto International Film Festival, the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation, the Global Business and Economic Roundtable on Addiction and Mental Health, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Bridgepoint Health, and the Toronto Community Foundation. He is a past President of the Canadian Club of Toronto.

Rod was selected as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 and as one of the "Best of the Best "on the 10th Anniversary of that award. In 2009, with investment partner the Clairvest Group, he was awarded the Canadian Venture Capital Association Deal of the Year in the Private Equity category. In 2010 he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, 32nd Combat Engineers Regiment headquartered at Downsview Base, Toronto.

A graduate of the MBA program at the Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University, Rod also holds an Honours BA in Political Science and English from Western University. He is a graduate of the Rotman School of Management Directors Education Program with Institute of Corporate Directors designation, ICD.D.

Michael Powell

Michael Powell is Vice President, Government Relations for Electricity Canada. Michael provides strategic advice to Electricity Canada's member electricity companies on how to advance the sector's interests with government stakeholders. This includes advocacy efforts in Canada and the United States on issues such as energy security, electrification, and climate policy.

Before joining Electricity Canada, Michael provided strategic, public affairs and communications advice for Canadian and international clients with a leading boutique consultancy. He has led communications and advocacy campaigns in all provinces and across the North.

Patrick Sackville

Patrick Sackville is Partner and Head of Growth and Strategy at Sussex. With experience at the highest levels of provincial government, Pat brings deep insight into how policy is shaped, decisions are made, and complex stakeholder environments are navigated. He has an extensive background in strategic leadership, public affairs, and government engagement, with a reputation for disciplined, results-oriented counsel.

Prior to joining Sussex, Pat served as Chief of Staff to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, following a series of senior leadership roles within the Government of Ontario. In that capacity, he played a central role in advancing the government's political and policy agenda, providing strategic counsel to the Premier and overseeing the coordination of complex, cross-government initiatives during periods of significant

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economic, political, and public scrutiny. His work spanned key priority areas including economic competitiveness, energy and infrastructure development, internal trade reform, and intergovernmental relations.

Through this experience, Pat developed a sophisticated understanding of government decision-making and policy implementation, as well as the practical realities facing public and private sector leaders seeking durable outcomes. He is widely respected for his ability to manage sensitive issues, align diverse interests, and translate complex political dynamics into clear direction.

At Sussex, Pat leads the firm's Growth and Strategy function, working closely with clients and internal teams to drive firmwide strategic development, support business growth, and advise organizations engaging with governments and regulators across Canada. His approach is pragmatic, and grounded in a clear assessment of risk, opportunity, and political context.

Pat is a graduate of the Ontario Legislature Internship Program and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science from Western University. He lives in London, Ontario, where he is active in his local community and is a proud father.

Sonya Savage, KC

Ms. Savage is a leading advocate in the energy industry, bringing a rare combination of senior government leadership, private legal practice and corporate executive and project development experience.

Prior to returning to the private sector in 2023, she served as a Senior Minister in the Government of Alberta, most recently as Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, and previously as Minister of Energy and Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. As Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, Ms. Savage led the development of Alberta's Emissions Reduction and Energy Development Plan 2023 and served as Alberta's primary intergovernmental representative on federal energy, climate, and environmental policy matters. As Minister of Energy, Ms. Savage oversaw Alberta's energy and mineral resources and led the development of legal, policy, and fiscal frameworks for conventional energy and emerging growth areas including critical minerals, carbon capture, hydrogen, small modular reactors, and renewables.

Before entering politics, Sonya held senior executive roles with the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association and Enbridge. She earned a Master of Laws (LLM) in 2015, with a published thesis on the evolving role of the National Energy Board and was appointed King's Counsel (KC) in 2022.

She is currently Senior Counsel at Borden Ladner Gervais, a Senior Advisor to Signal Hill, a Senior Fellow at MacDonald Laurier Institute, a member of the Global Research Council for the University of Tulane Energy Centre in New Orleans, Louisiana, and sits on the board of Directors for E3 Lithium, ENMAX, Critical Minerals Americas and the Wilder Institute/ Calgary Zoo.

Hon. Todd Smith

As Vice-President, Marketing and Business Development, the Honourable Todd Smith, is responsible for international business growth and sales of the Canadian-developed CANDU® nuclear reactor.

Before joining Candu Energy Inc. an AtkinsRéalis company in 2024, Todd Smith was an Ontario Cabinet Minister in Canada's largest province. Over his 13-year career as an elected Member of the Provincial Parliament he held many key portfolios including Energy, Economic Development and Trade and served as the Government House Leader. During his time as Minister of Energy, Smith announced many significant initiatives to address the province's growing electricity demand, including the first new nuclear builds in more than two decades and refurbishments at the province's existing fleet of reactors.

Prior to his election in 2011, Todd was a well-known TV and Radio host in Eastern Ontario, where he served as the News Director for a local broadcasting company. Born in Moncton, New Brunswick, he attended the University of New Brunswick and graduated from the Broadcast program at Loyalist College in Belleville Ontario.

Ed Stewart

Ed Stewart is the Partner and COO of Novel Strategies. He is a public affairs and international policy strategist with 35 years of experience advising organizations in complex political environments. He specializes in building interdisciplinary teams and coalitions that influence high-level decision-making across government and global institutions.

Ed has worked in more than 25 countries on issues including free trade agreements, bilateral treaties, sanctions, and multinational legal and diplomatic matters. He brings deep expertise in navigating rapidly shifting political landscapes and guiding clients through high-stakes international challenges. Ed has worked on numerous Republican campaigns and presidential nominating conventions.

He holds an M.A. in Diplomacy from the University of Kentucky and a B.A. in History and Government from Wofford College.

Ed's areas of expertise include: International Affairs and U.S. Foreign Policy, Global Trade, Franchising, Small Business, Food and Restaurants, Intellectual Property, Labour, Critical Minerals, Federal Tax Matters, Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Janine Sullivan

Janine brings nearly 30 years of industry experience to her role as President and Chief Executive Officer of FortisAlberta. A longtime member of the Fortis group of companies, she has developed a deep understanding of the regulated utility space in progressive leadership positions at both Newfoundland Power and FortisAlberta.

As President and CEO, Janine leads the company's efforts to safely deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to more than half a million customers across Alberta. Under her direction, FortisAlberta is fostering innovation, investing in communities and supporting economic growth across its service territory.

A respected voice in Canada's energy landscape, Janine received the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of her leadership and ongoing support of women and youth pursuing careers in the skilled trades. She was named an inaugural member of Electricity Canada's Women in Electricity Leadership Circle and is a sought-after panelist and speaker at industry events.

Janine is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) in Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador and holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Memorial University. She serves on the Board of Directors of FortisBC, Electricity Canada, Western Energy Institute and CAREERS: The Next Generation, where she supports initiatives that connect youth with career opportunities in the skilled trades.

Originally from Newfoundland, Janine has proudly called Alberta home for almost 20 years. She has come to know the province well — by both regularly visiting the company's 37 service points and driving her two boys to hockey rinks across Alberta.

Karen Taylor

Karen Taylor is an independent energy consultant, with deep experience in capital markets, regulatory policy and infrastructure investing. She is Managing Co-editor of Energy Regulation Quarterly and is Vice Chair of the Council for Clean & Reliable Energy, a non-profit organization that provides a platform for public dialogue and analysis on subjects related to energy policy and governance. She is also an Executive Fellow with the Ivey Energy Policy and Management Centre. Karen was formerly a Board Member at Macaulay Centres for Children, where she served on the finance and IT committees, Regent Street working group, and was chair of the strategic planning committee.

Karen has over 25 years of relevant senior executive financial and energy experience. She was a top-ranked equity analyst for 16 years with TD Securities and BMO Capital Markets covering the pipeline, energy utility and power generation sectors. She also served as the Executive Advisor to the Chair of the Ontario Energy Board and was a Member of the Ontario Energy Board. In addition, she served as Special Advisor to the Chair of the Ontario Securities Commission. Karen has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, Major in Finance, with Distinction, from the University of Alberta, a Master of Business Administration, with Honours from the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She has also completed the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program and holds the ICD.D designation.

Laryssa Waler

Laryssa Waler, Founder & CEO of Henley Strategies, brings nearly two decades of leadership in strategic communications, public affairs, and media relations. Known for her tailored, results-driven approach, Laryssa designs bespoke strategies for every client – recognizing the unique goas and challenges of each organization and individual she supports.

Laryssa has held senior roles at the highest levels of government, including serving as Executive Director of Communications to Ontario Premier Doug Ford. In the private sector, she has advised a wide range of clients – from Fortune 500 companies and high-growth startups to non-profits and advocacy organizations – helping them shape public narratives, engage policymakers, and build lasting influence. She is a frequent political commentator on Canadian TV and radio, where she offers insight into current affairs, public policy, and campaign strategy.

In 2022, Laryssa led media operations for the Canadian, Indigenous and international press during the historic visit of Pope Francis, coordinating coverage for more than 800 accredited journalists and serving as a spokesperson on matters related to Indigenous reconciliation.

A committed advocate for Ukraine, Laryssa continues to lend her voice and expertise to support the international response to Russia's war of aggression.

She holds a degree from the University of Toronto, and a graduate certificate in Public Relations from Humber College. She is fluent in English, Ukrainian and French.

Deborah Yedlin

Deborah Yedlin is the President and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. She joined the Chamber in July, 2021 with a background that includes experience on Wall Street and Bay Street, and more than two decades as a business columnist for various media outlets, commenting on the nexus of business and politics since 1996.

Since moving to Calgary in 1992, Deborah has been very active in the Calgary community – as a board member on a number of not-for-profit organizations including serving as the co-chair of the 2016 United Way Campaign. Yedlin served as the 14th Chancellor of the University of Calgary and is currently one of three co-chairs of the $250 million Calgary Cancer Centre fundraising campaign.

A first-generation Canadian, born and raised in Edmonton, Deborah is a graduate of the University of Alberta and Queen's University. She also completed her ICD.D designation through the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary.

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