

Gateway to New Horizons - Investment Opportunities in Canada

British Columbia and Northern Canada

4:00-5:30PM (PDT) November 3rd, 2021

7:00-8:30PM (EDT) November 3rd, 2021

8:00-9:30AM (JST) November 4th, 2021

Speakers (Alphabetical order)



Kosuke Abe, Senior Investor Services Advisor, Japan, Invest in Canada

Invest in Canada works directly with global investors to unlock business opportunities and facilitate expansion in Canada. We bring industry, community and government partners together to offer seamless services that make it easy for you to grow your operations in Canada.



Don Bell, Partner, Torys

Don's practice focuses on commercial transactions including mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. In addition to advising on commercial transactions, Don provides ongoing general business law advice to corporations and financial institutions carrying on business in North America. Don is fluent in Japanese, and worked for several years for a Japanese

electronics manufacturer and a business consulting company, which is reflected in the practical and service-oriented business counsel he provides.



Katie Curran, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Invest in Canada

Effective May 20, 2021, Katie Curran has taken on the role of Interim CEO of Invest in Canada, succeeding inaugural CEO Ian McKay, who was named Canada's Ambassador to Japan. As Interim CEO, she will lead Invest in Canada's efforts to promote, facilitate and accelerate global investments into Canada and will continue in this role until a search for a new CEO is complete.

Ms. Curran previously served as Invest in Canada's Chief Administrative Officer and is a core member of the Invest in Canada leadership team responsible for the successful launch of Invest in Canada. She has been instrumental in building Canada's first federal investment promotion agency (IPA), ensuring Invest in Canada's activities align with its mandate and establishing the foundations for excellence in governance and strong stewardship of resources.

Prior to joining Invest in Canada, Ms. Curran held a range of senior roles in talent consulting and human resource management in both the private and public sector.

Ms. Curran holds an MBA from Telfer School of Management and a B. Com. in Human Resource Management from the University of Ottawa.



Handol Kim, Co-Founder & CEO, Variational AI

Handol is Co-Founder & CEO of Variational AI, an AI for drug discovery start-up based in Vancouver. Variational AI is applying its state-of-the-art generative AI to generate novel drug-like small molecules that are efficacious, safe, and synthesizable in months versus years. Handol brings over 20 years of executive management experience and leadership from venture-backed start-ups and publicly-listed technology companies in cloud, mobile/embedded, and telecommunications software in Silicon Valley, Canada, and Asia Pacific.

Handol serves on the boards of the Digital Technology Supercluster, and the United Way British Columbia (Lower Mainland), and AI Network of British Columbia (AInBC).



Anne Lewis, Executive Director, Invest Yukon

Anne Lewis is the Executive Director of the Yukon Mining Alliance, and developed the globally-recognized Invest Yukon brand, representing the leading Yukon mineral exploration and mining companies, and in partnership with government, community and industry collaborators, promotes awareness of Yukon's mineral sector as one of the world's most geopolitically safe and geological endowed jurisdictions to strengthen investment for the Territory and the companies. Anne is also lead for the 3-year Invest Canada North project, a partnership between Yukon, NWT and Nunavut industry and government to promote Canada's northern territories to international investors at the annual PDAC convention.

Anne is also the President of CSR Management Inc and has 15 years' experience working in Yukon and on projects locally, nationally and internationally. Her clients and projects have ranged across industry sectors and include leading projects in collaboration with Yukon minerals sector companies, organizations and industry partners, including Yukon First Nations Governments and Development Corporations, communities and businesses, NGOs, and various levels of Territorial and Federal departments in Canada and abroad. Anne is the Founder and President of Yukon Women in Mining, contributing founding member of the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce, and Vice-Chair of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

Anne studied International Business at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, has a Bachelor of Arts, from the University of Lethbridge, and received Project Management Certification from the University of Mount Royale, Calgary. She is committed to ensuring that projects provide positive local impacts for global change, through thriving communities and companies, that champion diversity, inclusion, and empower women and girls.



Leslie Teramoto, Executive Director, International Trade and Investment Operations, Government of British Columbia

Leslie Teramoto has worked in international business in both the private and public sector. Before Government, she handled strategic planning and procurement for an international retailer. With the provincial government, she has worked on corporate governance, 2010 Olympics, export development, strategic investment and policy development. Her experience has been in both resource and technology-based industries, spanning Europe, Asia and the Americas. Leslie holds a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University and a MBA from the University of London.



Marko Trivun, Senior Associate, Torys

Marko represents high-growth technology companies through all stages of their growth cycle, and those that invest in or acquire them, including VC funds and strategic investors. As part of Torys' Emerging Companies and Venture Capital group, he provides strategic advice on equity and debt financing, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, securities, commercial transactions, employment and intellectual property matters. Marko also brings valuable business insights to the firm, providing advice on project management and efficiencies in service delivery, developing workflows and new technology solutions to support our clients cost effectively.



Paul Twigg, CTO, NTT DATA Canada

Paul Twigg is the CTO for NTT DATA in Canada. He is an award winning IT business leader with executive and hands-on experience in delivering leading edge cloud, data and innovation services. He is a recognized speaker and thought leader in the technology field driving innovation and digital transformation ideas. He is a motivational leader who enjoys building successful and productive teams, and thrives in highly pressurized and challenging working environments.



Ayako Yachie, CEO, SBX Biosciences

Ayako Yachie is CEO of SBX Biosciences, Inc. based in Vancouver, newly established as a subsidiary of SBX Corporation in Japan. She also serves as a director of research in SBX Corporation and a senior scientist in the Systems Biology Institute (SBI) in Tokyo, which are represented by Dr. Hiroaki Kitano.

She received her Ph.D. at the Bioinformatics/Systems Biology Program of Keio University in Japan, and was trained at the medical school of Keio University and the University of Toronto focusing on computational modeling in metabolism and stem cell bioengineering.

After she joined SBI and the group company SBX, she has led a number of projects on research and consultancy for drug discovery, translational research pipelines and industrial biotechnology processes with and for a number of companies including Fortune 500 companies in pharmaceutical and healthcare and academic institutions.

Our key strength underpinning the project's success is to develop a scientific solution and a platform to predict and understand the living systems through the integration of Systems Biology pipelines and Artificial Intelligence, together with the system development and scaling of the projects using the core platform technologies.