

6 MONTHS TO COP26: CELEBRATING 26 CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Meet the
Canadian **Climate**
Champions



L'Initiative canadienne
de droit climatique

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Climate Champion and Keynote Address



THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE McKENNA
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and
former Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada

In 2015, Catherine McKenna was elected the first female Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre and appointed Minister of Environment and Climate Change. She was re-elected in 2019 and serves as Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.

Catherine is a long-time resident of Ottawa Centre, is a mother of three, and is an avid swimmer and canoeist.

As the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Catherine is responsible for overseeing the historic Investing in Canada Plan designed to create economic growth, support a low-carbon, green economy and build inclusive communities. Her mandate includes leveraging private sector capital to build infrastructure in the public interest, whether that's by working with the Canada Infrastructure Bank or addressing our country's long-term infrastructure needs and priorities.

As the former Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine helped negotiate the Paris Climate Agreement, negotiated Canada's first comprehensive climate plan with a national price on pollution, announced a ban on single-use plastics by 2021, expanded parks and protected areas across Canada, and brought in the Impact Assessment Act to better protect the environment and build a stronger economy. As Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, she is working with communities across Canada to build thousands of projects, creating jobs across the country and building a cleaner, stronger and more inclusive country.

Catherine previously worked as a lawyer in Canada and Indonesia, was a negotiator with the UN peacekeeping mission in East Timor, taught at the Munk School of Global Affairs and co-founded the charitable organization Level Justice. She earned degrees from the University of Toronto, the London School of Economics, and McGill Law and is called to the Ontario and New York bars.

“COP26 presents a crucial opportunity to raise climate ambition and build the world we want for everyone. Canada’s commitment to reduce GHG emissions 40-45% by 2030 and concrete actions including pricing pollution, phasing out coal, and historic investments to build back better are important steps in that direction. We also need to ensure that we are supporting developing countries including to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is only by working together that we will ensure a cleaner and more equitable future for all.”

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DAVID ISAAC
President and CEO
W Dusk Energy Group

David Isaac, also known as Wugadusk (Northern Lights) by his traditional name, is a Mi'kmaq originally from Listuguj, Quebec but was raised in Vancouver within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples. He has been a long-time advocate for Indigenous health, the environment and has previously served as the Executive Director for the Vancouver Native Health Society as well as the Centre for Native Policy & Research. Most recently, he joined the board of IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability) and the Federal government's Cleantech Economic Strategy Table (ISED) and regularly contributes to national energy policy debate and formation.

David is the President of the W Dusk Energy Group, which works with Indigenous communities to harness the power of their renewable energy resources in tandem with broader community development initiatives like planning, food systems and infrastructure development. W Dusk is actively deploying megawatt and community owned solar farms throughout Canada.

W Dusk is currently developing green hydrogen, B.C.'s first fully solar community and has previously completed two of British Columbia's largest community owned (distributed power) solar projects and North America's first Indigenous owned utility scale solar farm in the Fisher River Cree Nation.

When David is not working, he can be found in nature and is an avid sailor.

"I believe COP 26 can lead to a reawakening of the need to respect the boundaries of the natural environment. Indigenous peoples everywhere have long understood the need to live in harmony with the diverse ecosystems that support us. My personal goal is to make it possible for all Peoples to share that vision."



ANDRÉE-LISE MÉTHOT
Founder and Managing Partner
Cycle Capital Management

Andrée-Lise Méthot has over 25 years in venture capital, management and engineering. She is the Founder and Managing Partner of Cycle Capital, an impact investor and Canada's leading cleantech private investment platform. With more than half a billion dollars under management, Cycle Capital manages four funds in North America and one in China.

Andrée-Lise is the Founder and Chair of the board of directors of the Ecofuel Accelerator. She has served on numerous boards of directors for public and private companies. She is Vice-President of the board of Société Québécoise des infrastructures and is a member of the Investment Committee of Sustainable Development Technology Canada. She sits on the advisory board of Paris Fonds Vert; is a member of the Task Force on Women in the Economy of the Canadian Government; and serves as Investment Québec cleantech ambassador. She was Co-Chair of a Task Force under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program and of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Andrée-Lise is also one of Canada's Clean16, one of the Top 20 cleantech investors ranked by CleanTechnica, and considered amongst the most influential women in sustainable development and in the cleantech industry (Corporate Knights).

"Five years after the Paris Agreement, we are reaching the critical point beyond which climate change will become irreversible. It is more than ever urgent that all the members of the society, public and private sectors come together and take concrete action. I'm grateful for being selected as a Canadian Climate Champion and support the efforts to reach the ambitious targets set by our governments."

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BRUCE LOURIE
President
Ivey Foundation

Bruce Lourie is a best-selling author, policy expert, social entrepreneur, and award-winning global sustainability leader. In addition to serving as President of the Ivey Foundation, he is a Senior Fellow of the Smith School of Business; Adjunct Professor of the School of Policy Studies, at Queen's University; and Guest Lecturer at the Said Business School Social Finance Program, University of Oxford.

Bruce initiated the largest climate action in North America (phasing-out coal in Ontario) and he has been instrumental in the creation of over a dozen organizations that play critical roles in sustainability in Canada and abroad. He has been active on many boards of directors and advisory boards, including the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices, the Transition Accelerator, the Institute for Sustainable Finance, and Canada's Ecofiscal Commission.

In 2015 Bruce received the Bryden Award for Outstanding Achievement, and in 2014, Earth Day Canada's Outstanding Commitment to the Environment Award. Bruce holds a BSc in Geology, and a Master's degree and PhD in Environmental Studies.

"Canada is well-positioned to meet its net zero ambitions with ample clean energy resources to support the low carbon transition. To succeed, we must convert ambition into greater action, through stronger regulatory measures and investments that target the most promising net-zero transition pathways."



MARTHA HALL FINDLAY
Chief Sustainable Officer
Suncor

Martha Hall Findlay is the Chief Sustainability Officer at Suncor. She oversees Suncor's sustainability strategy; public policy and government relations efforts; Indigenous, stakeholder, and community relations; and communications. Prior to joining Suncor, Martha was the President and CEO of the Canada West Foundation, a public policy think tank. She has over 30 years of experience as a corporate lawyer, international trade expert, senior executive, and successful entrepreneur.

A twice-elected Member of Parliament, she is currently a member of the Minister of International Trade's Trade Expert Advisory Council. Martha's community engagement has included serving as an advisory council member, board director and executive for a variety of organizations. Among other current activities, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Energy Board for MaRS and a member of the Board of Governors of the Glenbow Museum.

Martha has a BA in International Relations from the University of Toronto and an LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School. She also holds the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D) designation.

"Suncor fully supports Canada's Paris Agreement commitments, and we look forward to COP26 to continue building the all-important collaboration among the private sector, governments and other organizations needed to find real solutions. While the Paris Agreement is among nations, businesses must also be fully engaged."

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DAN WICKLUM
President and CEO
Transition Accelerator

Dr. Dan Wicklum leads the Transition Accelerator, a national organization collaborating with stakeholders across Canada to build GHG reductions into the solutions to major business and social challenges. He is responsible for setting the strategy of Transition Accelerator for the future, building a strong Canadian brand and helping develop transition pathways to a net-zero society across diverse sectors in Canada.

With 25 years of experience managing research, driving innovation, and promoting collaboration within and between industry, government, civil society and academia, he is a recognized sustainability leader. He was recently appointed as Co-chair of the Government of Canada's NetZero Advisory Board. Previously, Dr. Wicklum served as CEO of Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance. He was also Director General of Wildlife and Landscape Science, Director General of Water Science and Technology, and Director of Strategic Alliance with Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada.

He holds a BSc in Biology from the University of Guelph, MSc in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Calgary, and a PhD in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Montana.

"Identifying compelling, practical, and credible transition pathways to a net-zero emissions society is not only required to combat climate change but is also vital to strengthening Canada's economic competitiveness in a very quickly changing world. I am honoured to co-chair the Net-Zero Advisory Body and look forward to engaging with Canadians across the country to be able to provide the best advice possible on how Canada can attain net-zero emissions."



SARA HASTINGS-SIMON
Scientist and Senior Research Associate
Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines
School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

Dr. Sara Hastings-Simon is a Research Fellow at the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary and a Senior Researcher at the Payne Institute for Public Policy at the Colorado School of Mines. An expert in energy, innovation, and climate policy, her research in macro energy systems has focused on low carbon energy transitions at the intersection of policy, business and technology. She has worked with provincial and national governments, regulators, financial institutions, renewable energy developers, and oil and gas companies, researching innovation, the cleantech industry, modelling of the North American power sector, and development of international and domestic policy for climate change and emissions reduction.

She is a Canadian Climate Governance Expert and a member of the panel for Clean Growth with the Canadian Climate Choices Institute and member of the board of directors of Emissions Reduction Alberta and the Pembina Institute. She is co-host of the Energy vs. Climate webinar and podcast series. Previously, she served as a member of the Alberta Clean Technology Task Force. Dr. Hastings-Simon was also Director of Clean Economy at the Pembina Institute where she founded Business Renewable Centre Canada.

She holds a BA in Physics from Pomona College, MA in Physics from University of California at Santa Barbara, and a PhD in Physics from the University of Geneva.

"Reaching net-zero in an equitable way is a complex challenge that requires a multidisciplinary approach."

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DENIS LECLERC
President and CEO
Écotech Québec

Denis Leclerc is the Founding President and CEO of Écotech Québec, the cluster representing the Québec cleantech ecosystem. He is also the Chair of Canada Cleantech Alliance and of the International Cleantech Network, based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

During his 20 years in the natural resources sector, Mr. Leclerc held several senior management positions, including that of Vice-President, Sustainability and Environment for AbitibiBowater. He has been involved of many projects and strategic decisions for companies with operations in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia.

Denis sits on several boards and committees, namely on the Council of the Green Municipal Fund of the Federation of Canadian municipalities, on the Strategic Committee of the Solar Impulse Foundation, Switzerland and on the Canadian Environment Domestic Advisory Group for the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. In addition to being a Chartered Director, Denis holds an MBA from Université de Sherbrooke.

“The opportunities that emerge from the current pandemic context must be seized to transform Canada’s economy to be greener and more prosperous. All these efforts must contribute to job creation, to sustainable prosperity, to fighting climate change, and to improving the environment quality; in short, to a better life quality and public health for all.”



BARBARA ZVAN
Inaugural President and CEO
University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP)

Barbara Zvan is one of the world’s most notable sustainable pension ambassadors. Before starting her role as the inaugural President of the University Pension Plan Ontario, she made a significant impact at the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (OTPP) on pension fund innovation and responsible investing. In her role as Chief Risk & Strategy Officer, she crafted OTPP’s responsible investing and climate change strategy, leading OTPP to be named one of the world’s top responsible asset allocators by Bretton Woods II. Zvan’s work became a framework for ESG integration in Canadian pension plans.

Zvan was one of four appointees to the Government of Canada’s Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance, and played a significant role in creating the G7 Investor Leadership Network. She currently serves on the board of the Responsible Investment Association, the Advisory Board of the Institute for Sustainable Finance and the Advisory Committee of the new “Investing to Address Climate Change’ University Charter. Other leadership and advisory positions include the Global Risk Institute, the industry-led Task Force for a Resilient Recovery, Cadillac Fairview, and the Canadian Coalition for Good Governance, where Barbara led creation of “The Directors’ E&S Guidebook” as inaugural Chair of the Board’s E&S Committee.

She holds the Institute of Corporate Directors designation (ICD.D) and a MSc in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo. She is an honouree of Canada’s 2020 Clean50 and Canada’s 2008 Top 40 Under 40.

“It’s time for sustainable finance to simply become ‘finance’. When climate consciousness becomes part of everyday savings and investment decisions, we make smarter choices, with better outcomes, and more significant impacts.”

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MARCIA SMITH
Senior Vice President, Sustainability
and External Affairs
Teck Resources Limited

Marcia Smith is the Senior Vice President, Sustainability and External Affairs at Teck, leading Teck's sustainability strategy, as well as a diverse portfolio including health and safety, environment and legacy properties and the company's relationships with Indigenous Peoples, communities, government, and corporate affairs. Under her guidance, Teck has been named to the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations for four consecutive years and is the top-ranked mining company for ESG performance by the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index, Sustainalytics, the FTSE4Good Global Index and Vigeo Eiris.

Teck's corporate strategy is focused on responsibly growing its production of green metals such as copper, which are essential for the global transition to a low-carbon economy, while also working to reduce the carbon footprint of its activities. In February 2020, Teck announced a commitment to reach carbon neutrality across operations by 2050, with a near-term goal to reduce carbon intensity by 33% by 2030. Teck is also a strong advocate for action and policies that reduce emissions globally – such as carbon pricing – and is a signatory to the Paris Pledge in support of the Paris Agreement; the first Canadian resource company to join the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition; and a member of the Council for Clean Capitalism.

"Climate change is a global risk that requires decisive and urgent action across all levels of government and every sector of the economy. We all need to play a role in contributing to reaching net-zero and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement."



BRYAN BUGGEY
Director
Vancouver Economic Commission

Bryan is a senior executive with more than three decades of experience as a business leader in entrepreneurship, sustainability, innovation, management consulting, and economic development. Since 2010, Bryan has been responsible for economic and business development at the City of Vancouver's Economic Commission. In his role as Director, he has led teams in charge of projects and programs aimed at supporting the Vancouver business ecosystem's transition towards a low-carbon, circular economy. This includes investment, trade, local business engagement, research, advocacy and targeted climate initiatives.

Bryan is actively involved in the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan, Greenest City Action Plan, Renewable City 2050, Zero Waste 2040, and Smart City initiatives, and brings the economic development and business opportunity lens to the conversations around public policy development.

Bryan has an undergraduate degree in Economics (Regional Economic Development), an MBA in IT Strategy, is certified in ESG governance by Competent Boards, and is a graduate of UBC's Summer Institute for Sustainability. Bryan is also a member of the Canadian Climate Law Initiative, co-founded the Vancouver Maritime Centre for Climate and was awarded the pan-Canadian Clean 50 Award (2017) for his leadership in green and sustainable economic development.

"Across the world and locally here in Vancouver, it finally appears that we have reached a tipping point. Global corporations and major finance houses are making bold climate targets & policies and our local SMEs are in action, as well. The big question remains unanswered, of course... "Are we moving fast enough?" The sense of urgency has never been greater."

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KIM THOMASSIN

Executive Vice-President and Head of Investments
in Québec and Stewardship Investing
Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Kim Thomassin has been Executive Vice-President and Head of Investments in Québec and Stewardship Investing since April 2020. She leads the teams responsible for investments in Québec, post-investment management and Espace CDPQ.

She also oversees the Stewardship Investing team, whose mandate is to factor ESG criteria into CDPQ's investment activities and to deploy its investment strategy to address climate change. She is a member of the Executive Committee and the Investment-Risk Committee.

She was one of four members of the Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance established in 2018 by the federal government. She is now part of the Consultative Group for Carbon Neutrality, an initiative of the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and part of the Climate Change Advisory Committee, an initiative of the Québec Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change.

"At CDPQ, we believe that working together towards a net-zero global economy is a concrete solution to climate change and that it contributes to stronger communities and businesses."



NATAN OBED

President
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Natan Obed is the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the national organization representing Inuit in Canada. Originally from Nain, Nunatsiavut, he has devoted his career to protecting Inuit rights, culture, knowledge, language, and environment. He continues to advocate for Inuit self-determination in climate policy within Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland comprised of the land claims regions of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut.

In 2019, under Mr. Obed's presidency, ITK launched an Inuit-led response to climate change, the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy. It was accompanied by a \$1 million implementation budget from the Government of Canada. The strategy outlines priority areas for Inuit, and calls for coordinated climate policy and decision making that improves Inuit quality of life.

"As Inuit, our relationship with the environment shapes our culture, economy and way of life. I am honoured to be recognized as a Climate Champion for the role that ITK has played in building momentum for transformative action that is respectful of Inuit rights and governance structures. I hope our efforts on behalf of Inuit can lead to meaningful change in our country, and around the world."

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VALERIE CHORT
Vice President, Corporate Citizenship
and Sustainability
RBC

As VP Corporate Citizenship & Sustainability for RBC and Executive Director of the RBC Foundation, Valerie is responsible for developing an integrated strategy aligned to RBC's purpose and business objectives, and creating positive social, economic and environmental impacts in the community.

For over 25 years Valerie has helped businesses, governments and non-government organizations proactively manage environmental and social risks, and create value through purpose-led ESG strategies. In 2021, RBC updated its climate commitments: increasing its sustainable financing target to \$500 billion by 2025; committing to achieving net-zero carbon emissions in its lending by 2050, beginning with measuring and reporting its financed emissions for key sectors in its 2022 TCFD Report; achieving net-zero emissions in its global operations annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2025 and increasing its sourcing of electricity from renewable and non-emitting sources to 100% by 2025.

Valerie has been instrumental in developing RBC's Climate Blueprint, the company's integrated climate strategy to accelerate clean economic growth and support clients in the transition to a low-carbon future, and launching RBC Tech for Nature.

Previously, Ms. Chort was a Partner with Deloitte and the America's Leader of Deloitte's Sustainability and Climate Change Practice. Valerie graduated from the University of Ottawa with a BSc in Biochemistry and a BAS in Chemical Engineering.

"With the impacts of climate change permeating all communities and sectors of the economy, there has never been greater opportunity or urgency for leadership, collaboration, ingenuity, and action to achieve a just transition to net-zero."



INDER BEDI
Founder
MATT and NAT, and 457 ANEW

Inder Bedi founded MATT and NAT as a vegan accessory brand in 1995 based on a university paper as a frustrated consumer looking for accessories that were sustainable yet still fashionably relevant. With his work at MATT and NAT Inder became a pioneer in the sustainable fashion industry. He eventually left MATT and NAT, selling his controlling interests in 2013.

After years of research and development, he has recently returned to the fashion scene with a focus on local production in Canada and slow fashion. 457 ANEW's line of outerwear, knits and bags are handmade in Canada from plants, ocean waste and landfill materials. The materials include ECONYL (fabricated from ocean waste such as fishing nets), plant-based leather from cactus leaves, discarded seatbelts and Boeing airplane seats as well as linings and insulation made from recycled materials. A conscious effort has been made to source all components locally including custom hardware made from recycled aluminum. To close the loop, all pieces are guaranteed to never see a landfill and 1% of all sales are donated to Plastic Oceans to clean and protect our shores and oceans in Canada and around the globe. Inder has a BComm in Marketing with a Minor in Corporate Law from Concordia University. Learn more about 457 ANEW.

"I am honoured to be part of COP26 this year! I've been blessed to work with like-minded souls that want to go beyond net-zero emissions to design pieces that clean up landfill and ocean waste in Canada and around the globe. I hope we can inspire others to do the same. Thank you CCLI for everything you do and for shining a light on one of the most pressing issues of our time."

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MARINA MELANIDIS
Founder and Co-Managing Director
Youth4Nature

Marina (she/her) is a Greek-British-Canadian settler on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (currently known as Vancouver, BC). She is the Founder and Co-Managing Director of Youth4Nature, a Canadian-founded, international, youth-led organization that is empowering and mobilizing youth all over the world to advocate for solutions to both the climate and ecological crisis that are grounded in knowledge, community, and justice.

Marina is passionate about biodiversity conservation, climate action, and intergenerational justice, and has been working as a youth leader for both nature and climate for five years. Previously, Marina has worked on conservation and climate change with the British Columbia Provincial Government and Canadian Federal government, including with Parks Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; abroad as a research exchange fellow in India; and with the United Nations as an intern with the UN Environment Programme. She was also the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Climate Guides, a youth-led non-profit based in Vancouver that engages youth in climate action through mentorship.

Marina holds a B.Sc. in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of British Columbia, and is currently pursuing an MSc, with a research focus on how the idea and practice of 'nature-based solutions' is shaping and re-shaping aspects of conservation governance. She has recently been named as one of Canada's Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leaders and Top 25 under 25 Environmentalists.

“The scale of the climate and ecological crisis requires transformative, systemic change that prioritises people over profits, and couples the conservation and restoration of nature with a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels. My generation will not accept anything less.”



ROBERT NIVEN
Chief Executive Officer and Founder
CarbonCure Technologies

Rob Niven is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CarbonCure Technologies, the global leader in carbon dioxide (CO₂) removal technologies for the concrete industry. Rob has the simple goal of making concrete sustainability both profitable and easy for industry. Under his direction, CarbonCure and its partners are achieving their mission to reduce 500 megatonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Rob has received countless international awards recognizing his leadership in sustainability, innovation and technology development including the Canada's Top 40 Under 40, the 2016 Ernest C. Manning Innovation Award, the Cleantech Group's Top 100 Global Cleantech Companies and the BloombergNEF New Energy Pioneers Award.

“Canadian innovators, like CarbonCure, are leading the global race to develop and essential Carbon Removal technologies and emission credits to meet the needs of governments and corporations with net-zero greenhouse gas targets. COP-26 is one of the final opportunities for policy makers to create receptive market conditions using Green Procurement rules to accelerate Carbon Removal technology adoption across incumbent industries.”

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DAVID SUZUKI

Co-Founder, David Suzuki Foundation
Host of CBC's The Nature of Things

Dr David Suzuki is a Canadian scientist, television personality, author, and environmental activist. He was a faculty member at the University of British Columbia from 1963 to 2001, serving now as Professor Emeritus. He is best known for his deep and long-standing advocacy to protect the planet. Dr Suzuki's television series, The Nature of Things on CBC broadcast in 1989 its first of dozens of programs on climate change and has educated millions of Canadians that we are embedded in and utterly dependent on Nature and our for our survival and well being. His advocacy and insights have made the science of the environment accessible to the public. His major series, A Planet for the Taking and The Sacred Balance garnered a wide audience and critical acclaim.

He has written and co-authored 54 books (18 for children) and hundreds of essays and columns for which he has received numerous awards, including a UNESCO prize for science, a United Nations Environment Program medal, the Right Livelihood Award, the Inamori Ethics prize and Companion of the Order of Canada. He has also been honoured with eight names from Indigenous peoples and formal adoption by two First Nations.

He co-founded the David Suzuki Foundation in 1990 as a non-profit organization promoting solutions to environmental problems. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Amherst College in Massachusetts and a PhD in zoology from the University of Chicago. He has also received 29 honorary degrees from universities in Canada, the US, and Australia.

"Meeting the challenge of anthropogenic climate change must transcend political partisanship and economic barriers and we have very little time."



MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO

Founder, Sacred Earth Solar
Just Transition Director, Indigenous
Climate Action

Melina Laboucan-Massimo is Lubicon Cree from Northern Alberta. She has worked on social, environmental and climate justice issues for the past 20 years. Melina is the Just Transition Director at Indigenous Climate Action, the Founder of Sacred Earth Solar and a Fellow at the David Suzuki Foundation. She is also the Host of a new TV series called Power to the People which profiles renewable energy, food security and eco-housing projects in Indigenous communities across Canada.

Facing firsthand impacts of the Alberta tar sands in her traditional territory, Melina has been a vocal advocate for Indigenous rights and environmental justice. For over a decade, Melina worked as a Climate and Energy Campaigner with Greenpeace Canada. She has written for a variety of publications and produced short documentaries on the tar sands, climate change, water issues and Indigenous cultural revitalization. Melina has studied, campaigned and worked in Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Canada and across Europe focusing on resource extraction, climate change impacts, media literacy and Indigenous rights & responsibilities.

Melina currently serves on the boards of Seeding Sovereignty and NDN Collective as well as the executive steering committee of the Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise.

"My vision of a net-zero world is one where Canada respects and upholds the sovereignty and knowledge of Indigenous peoples. Implementing a Just Transition and committing to UNDRIP are essential to a net-zero pathway. Prioritizing Indigenous communities who bear the brunt of environmental contamination in their homelands is critical. A net-zero future means we no longer have sacrifice zones or sacrificed communities. It is with these justice tenets in mind that I accept this nomination."

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ÉRIC ST-PIERRE
Executive Director
Trottier Family Foundation

Éric St-Pierre is Executive Director of the Trottier Family Foundation, one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in Canada. Under Éric's leadership, the Foundation has transitioned its assets towards sustainable and impact investing, increased grants for climate change and helped to build new initiatives that accelerate the transition towards a net-zero carbon economy. Much of Éric's work is focused on strategic and effective philanthropy and creating opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

He is the Co-Founder of Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3), President of the Greater Montréal Climate Fund, sits on the Board of Environment Funders Canada and former Chair of the Low Carbon Funders Group, and is Co-Chair of the Montreal Climate Partnership. He made an instrumental contribution to the establishment of the Greater Montréal Climate Fund, which will support low-carbon sustainable solutions in the Montreal Metropolitan region. He is an advocate for a green recovery from the pandemic on the basis that we only have one Earth and one recovery, so it is our chance to advance climate-related solutions that build up just industries and livelihoods, generate green jobs as part of a low-carbon economy, and support well-being economies, protect workers' rights, and distribute wealth equitably.

Éric is a member of the Québec bar, has civil law and common law (LLB/BCL) degrees from McGill University and a BA Honours degree in Political Science from Concordia University.

"My vision for COP 26 is to see individual countries, like Canada, dramatically increase political energy to reach pathways that lead towards a net-zero economy that is both decarbonized and prosperous for all."



LINDA COADY
Executive Director
Pembina Institute

Linda Coady is the Executive Director of the Pembina Institute, one of Canada's leading think tanks on climate, energy, and environmental issues. Like Pembina, Linda has a strong background in building working relationships across diverse groups and perspectives on sustainable development challenges and opportunities. She has broad leadership experience in Canada's natural resource and non-profit sectors. Prior to joining the Pembina Institute, Linda was Chief Sustainability Officer for Calgary-based Enbridge Inc, Vice-President of Sustainability for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, Vice-President of Pacific Region for World Wildlife Fund Canada, and Vice-President of Environmental Affairs and Enterprise for the BC Coastal Group of forest companies Weyerhaeuser and MacMillan Bloedel.

Linda has also been a Fellow at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia and has taught corporate social responsibility at UBC's Sauder School of Business. She has served on several advisory groups to governments on climate and energy issues, including as a member of the 2015 Advisory Panel on Climate Leadership to the Province of Alberta, and the 2018 Generation Energy Council to the Government of Canada. She was recently appointed to Canada's new Net-Zero Advisory Body, which provides independent advice to the federal government on meeting its commitments under the proposed Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act.

"With the world's energy mix and the factors that determine market competitiveness quickly changing, the transition to a net-zero energy future presents Canada with powerful opportunities to diversify our economy, create jobs, attract new capital and investment, and address inequities laid bare by the COVID pandemic."

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DARCY WOOD
CEO
Aki Energy

Darcy Wood is a proud Anishinew (Oji-Cree). He is the Co-Founder and CEO of Aki Energy and Aki Foods. Darcy is making Indigenous energy sovereignty a reality in Canada by partnering Aki Energy with First Nation communities to ensure renewable energy systems are cost effective and provide positive returns for the community. Recently, Aki Energy with its Community partners Peguis, Long Plain, Sagkeeng First Nations and Fisher River Cree Nation have trained 30 local tradespeople that installed and maintains 400 residential geothermal energy systems, in their respective communities worth over \$8,000,000.00 through Social financing.

Previously, Darcy worked as a Senior Policy Analyst in the housing and infrastructure department of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and for Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada at both the Manitoba region and Federal levels. He has also served as Chief in his home community of Garden Hill First Nation. Darcy has 30 years policy and governance experience in national and regional First Nation political organizations. He has been a political advisor to the Manitoba Grand Chief. Aki Energy was presented with the Western and National Canadian Start-Up of the Year's Social Enterprise Award in 2016. Darcy was also recently recognized as one of Canada's Clean50 and Clean16: Renewable Energy 2020.

"When we looked at how to create meaningful employment on First Nations we knew partnering social enterprise and green jobs was going to work hand in hand in protecting Mother Earth."



ANNA-KAY RUSSELL
Director of Strategy and Governance
Leading Change Canada

Anna-Kay Russell is a policy and governance professional and community leader with a mission to engage diverse communities, including governments, businesses, local activists and innovators, in the transition to a low-carbon, and socially-just world. As the Director of Strategy and Governance, she is shaping the growth and future direction of Leading Change Canada, a nation-wide movement of young leaders and sustainability professionals accelerating action on issues that are critical to attaining a sustainable, prosperous, and socially just future within a generation. As the Manager of Public Affairs at WoodGreen Community Services, Anna-Kay supports the strategic development and stakeholder relations of one of Toronto's largest social service agencies and second largest affordable housing provider.

Prior to this, she supported the dissemination of good governance practices, including ESG principles, among publicly listed companies at the Canadian Coalition for Good Governance. As the co-founder & Director of Funding Partnerships for the Canadian Black Policy Network, Anna-Kay is working to advance unique opportunities for Black community members and allies to collaborate, innovate and find sustainable solutions for policy issues impacting the socioeconomic outcomes of Canada's Black communities.

Anna-Kay holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto, and a bilingual iBA in Environmental & Health Studies from Glendon College at York University.

"Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly proven the importance of acting fast, working together, and leaving no one behind - especially disproportionately impacted communities. The same is and must be true for climate change."

6 MONTHS TO COP26: CELEBRATING 26 CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Meet the Canadian Climate Champions



DAVID ARSENAULT
CEO and Co-Founder
Effenco

David Arsenault is the president and one of the co-founders of Effenco, a pioneer in the electrification and connectivity of heavy-duty vocational vehicles. In 2006, shortly after completing his master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, he and two other students founded Effenco. David's vision was to improve the energy efficiency of these heavy-duty trucks; the least efficient segment in the transportation industry and one of the largest sources of air pollution.

Today, thanks to their unique and patented technology based on ultracapacitors, Effenco develops solutions that make it possible to achieve the complete electrification of these vehicles. In 2021, Effenco received the 'Solar Impulse Efficient Solution' Label, a proof of high standards in profitability and sustainability.

Before starting his own company, David worked for the jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney.

"Effenco was founded in the spirit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are pleased to be able to contribute to the collective effort by continually developing innovative green technology solutions."



SUSAN McGEACHIE
Global Director, Strategy and Policy, Climate
Change and Sustainability
Hatch

Susan McGeachie is the global leader of strategy and policy in Hatch's climate change and sustainability practice. With 20 years of experience in the field, she specializes in environmental, social and governance (ESG)-focused programme reviews and evaluations, climate change-related risk and investment cost-benefit assessments, stakeholder consultations, and sustainability disclosure and communications strategy and guidance. At Hatch, Susan supports clients in addressing the impact of a changing business environment, including climate change-related factors, on companies and projects. She develops strategies to help project developers manage shifts in policies, law, technologies, weather patterns and social inclusion considerations.

She is an Adjunct Professor with the University of Toronto, teaching a graduate course in climate finance, and is a member of the Environmental Finance Advisory Committee. Previously, she held the position of Central Market Leader for the Climate Change and Sustainability Services practice at Ernst and Young and had been appointed to the Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business Advisory Council.

She holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business with a specialization in International Finance and Sustainability. She was a 2014 recipient of the Clean 16 award recipient, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to clean capitalis.

"Over this next crucial decade, Canada needs a technically and economically viable decarbonization pathway for our national economy, with practical solutions for removing long-standing barriers to implementation."

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Meet the Canadian Climate Champions



SCOTT SKINNER
President and CEO
Clean Foundation

Scott Skinner is the President and CEO of the Clean Foundation, a non-profit non-governmental environment organization working at the intersection of energy, education and policy. Clean Foundation runs numerous projects and programs to help people in the low-carbon transition. Based in Nova Scotia, Clean's initiatives are focused on a broad range of climate action areas including residential energy efficiency, climate change education, local climate change capacity building, coastal adaptation, and clean transportation. The organization partners with both private and public entities, indigenous communities and organizations, international subject matter experts, local community groups and others.

Scott serves on the advisory council for the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices, the Board of the investment fund Wind4All Communities, and the Federal Sustainable Development Advisory Council as the representative for Nova Scotia. He is also the Chair of the Nova Scotia Roundtable of the Environment and Sustainable Prosperity and recently co-chaired the review process that resulted in Nova Scotia's Sustainable Development Goals Act passed in the fall of 2019. He studied at Saint Mary's and Dalhousie universities.

"As we approach COP26 this fall Canada must show leadership, ambition and the steps we will take for an equitable net-zero future. At the Clean Foundation we are working hard to do our part to contribute to that vision at the community level."



JENNIFER McNEILL
Vice President, Sales and Marketing
(Public Sector)
NFI Group

Jennifer McNeill is a transportation industry veteran with over two decades of leadership in transit bus manufacturing and aerospace maintenance. She joined NFI Group in 2012 and leads the Sales and Marketing operation for North American Public Sector clients, while also providing strategic business intelligence direction.

Prior to joining NFI Group, Jennifer worked for StandardAero for 17 years where she held senior management and leadership positions in engineering, quality, sales, and business strategy, including Vice President Sales, Marketing and Business Development. Jennifer is a catalyst for the development of New Flyer's and Motorcoach Industries' zero-emission bus and infrastructure offerings in Canada and the U.S., and an advocate for smart, sustainable, and resilient mobility. She is a board member with the American Public Transit Association (APTA), Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) and the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC).

She holds both a Mechanical Engineering degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Manitoba and is an accredited Professional Engineer. In 2020, she was named an Honoree of Canada's Clean50 list, recognizing Canada's leaders advancing sustainability and clean capitalism, and was also named to the Clean16, for outstanding contribution to the clean energy economy in the Manufacturing and Transportation sector.

"2021 is a defining year in Canada's journey to net-zero emissions. As our economy remobilizes, we have the extraordinary opportunity to invest in a new - and greener - mobility era, by innovating, planning, reskilling, upskilling, and building equitable access to zero-emissions transportation in our communities."

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Canada Climate Law Initiative

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