



Information and Communications
Technology Council

Conseil des technologies de l'information
et des communications

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE ON EDUCATION & SKILLS

2016 – 2017

Meet our leaders:



Dr. Bonnie Schmidt, PhD, C.M.
President & Founder
Let's Talk Science

Chair of Education & Skills Taskforce

Dr. Bonnie Schmidt is the founder and president of Let's Talk Science, an award-winning, national charitable organization that she started in 1991 while completing a PhD in Physiology. Let's Talk Science helps children and youth fulfill their potential and prepare for their future careers and citizenship role by supporting their learning through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) engagement. During its 20+ year history, well over 4 million youth and educators have been reached and an estimated 26,000 volunteers have been engaged with Let's Talk Science. Supporting education transformation and developing creative, critical thinkers the organization has a bold plan to impact 5 million more youth by 2020.

Bonnie has been active in a variety of national and provincial organizations and initiatives. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors of Ontario Genomics and the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). She is also on the Governor General's selection panel for the Meritorious Service Award and the MaRS Studio-Y National Advisory Panel. In June 2016, Bonnie was named Chair of the National Leadership Taskforce on Education & Skills for the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC).

For her efforts in education and youth development, Bonnie was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2015 and has received several awards, including the Life Sciences Ontario Community Service Award; Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award; Top 40 Under 40; and Western's Young Alumni Award.



Denise Amyot
President & CEO
Colleges and Institutes Canada
(CICan, formerly the Association of
Canadian Community Colleges)

Denise Amyot is the President and CEO of Colleges and Institutes Canada. The Association is the national and international voice of Canada's publicly funded colleges, institutes and polytechnics, serving 1.5 million learners of all ages and backgrounds at campuses in 1,000 urban, rural and remote communities.

Denise Amyot was most recently the President and CEO of the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation providing leadership in three national museums to foster scientific and technological literacy throughout the country.

She has worked in policy and programs in social, scientific, economic and cultural areas both in National Headquarters and in regions in several federal departments including Human Resources Development Canada, National Defence, Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs, Canadian Heritage, and the two central agencies: the Public Service Commission and the Canada Public Service Agency (now Treasury Board).

Currently, she is Chair of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics and the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Institute of Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) and on the Human Resources Policy Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and on the Advisory Council of the Schulich Centre for Excellence in Public Management, Western University and on the Canada-India CEO Forum. She has recently been appointed on the Ottawa Innovation Centre Board of Directors.



Jane Tallim
Co-Executive Director
MediaSmarts

Jane Tallim is Co-Executive Director of MediaSmarts (previously Media Awareness Network) Canada's centre for digital and media literacy. A former secondary teacher and internationally recognized expert in issues relating to media and youth, Jane has been involved since 2000 in MediaSmarts' ongoing research on young people's use of and attitudes towards new media -- Young Canadians in a Wired World -- and has developed award-winning resources to help young people develop digital literacy skills and competencies.

Jane is passionate about ensuring that today's youth are able to live, learn and thrive as citizens and workers in a digital world. A strong advocate for child and youth mental health, Jane has mentored a youth-based network for de-stigmatizing mental illness and has chaired the board of directors for an Ottawa-based eating disorder support centre. Jane also sits on the National Advisory Committee for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence.



Krista Shibata

Leader, Women in Technology Initiative
IBM Canada

Earlier in 2016, Krista Shibata was named the leader of the IBM Canada strategic initiative focused on closing the gap for Girls in STEM/Women in Technology. As part of the IBM Canada Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs team, Krista will be driving IBM's presence as a leader in driving positive change for girls in STEM and women in technology.

Prior to accepting her current role, Krista has held global leadership roles for IBM and Cognos in the areas of communications and marketing, mergers and acquisitions, as well as sales. Prior to joining high tech, Krista spent time in small business as well as amateur sports.

Krista is currently a member of the IBM Ottawa Leadership Team, the Chair of the IBM Ottawa Women in IBM Networking Group (WING) as well as an IBM Canada Employee Engagement Leader. She is a 2015 alumni of the prestigious IBM Corporate Service Corps program through which she spent a month in Vietnam acting as a consultant. She has board experience as a previous VP of the Children's Bridge Adoption Agency Board of Directors.



Lauren Skelly

Senior Policy Analyst, Public Policy & Gov't
Affairs
Google Canada

Lauren works on Google's government relations team, where she executes campaigns and political outreach on issues which intersect policy, politics and technology. She also leads Google's Community Affairs and giving for Canada where she's worked extensively with non-profits and civil society on promoting and encouraging STEM, particularly computer science, among under represented groups in Canada.

Prior to joining Google, Lauren worked on the policy team at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and as a consultant at Harris/Decima. She is an active member of the Dovercourt Recreation Association Board. She is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Concordia University. Lauren grew up in Vancouver but now lives in Ottawa with her husband and son.



Marc Seaman
Vice President, Education
Microsoft Canada

Since joining Microsoft Canada in 2004, Marc Seaman has held the position of national director of corporate and public affairs, including responsibility for leading and managing corporate communications and citizenship across Canada.

Seaman is currently a member of the board of directors for the Ottawa Convention Centre and a member of the board of governors for the Ottawa Hospital. He served on the board of governors of the University of Ottawa from 2001 to 2006, including serving on its executive committee and as chair of its communications and external relations committee. He was a member of the United Way Ottawa Cabinet from 2005 to 2007, and was the inaugural chair of its next generation division. He was a member of the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada from 2006-2009 and a member of the board of directors for Westboro Academy from 2005-2009.

Seaman was recognized as Manager of the Year for Microsoft Canada in 2007 and was awarded the J. Elder Award as Microsoft's Leader of the Year in 2009. His professional achievements have earned him the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Award of Excellence for Marketing, as well as the Capitale Excel Award for Communications. He was a recipient of Ottawa's 40 under 40 by the Ottawa Business Journal in 2007. Fluently bilingual, he holds a bachelors degree in communications from the University of Ottawa.



Nathalie Verge
Director, Corporate Affairs
Ubisoft Entertainment Inc.

Nathalie Verge has worked for Ubisoft since 2009, first as Senior Advisor, Corporate Affairs and since 2015, as Director, Corporate Affairs. As such, she oversees institutional and governmental relations along with the partnership strategies in countries and provinces where Ubisoft is located. The company currently employs more than 3,500 people in its video game development studios in Canada (in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto and Halifax) and in its Hybride Technologies branch located in Piedmont.

Nathalie is a law graduate and has close to 20 years' experience in politics, governmental and institutional relations. Before joining Ubisoft, she served as political advisor and private secretary of a number of ministers, acted as deputy secretary-general of Polytechnique Montreal and managed the Quebec Press Council.

Ms. Verge is a member of the board of the Entertainment Software Association and the Théâtre PÀP in Montreal.



Paul Thompson

Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Skills and Employment Branch
Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Mr. Paul Thompson began his career in the Public Service in 1990 with Human Resources Development Canada where he worked until 1997, holding various positions including Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister

He has held several executive positions in his career in the public service including with the Privy Council Office as Director of Operations, Social Development Policy as Director General, Strategic Priorities and Planning at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Prior to joining Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Mr. Thompson was Executive Director, Strategic Planning with the Treasury Board Secretariat from April 2005 to September 2007.

Mr. Thompson was appointed as the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister for the Skills and Employment Branch at HRSDC on October 1, 2007. From April 1, 2010 to May 12, 2014, Paul held the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of Processing and Payment Services Branch. He was appointed to his current position of Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the Skills and Employment Branch on May 12, 2014.

Mr. Thompson holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Queen's University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Toronto.



Robert Martellacci

Founder & President
MindShare Learning Technology

Robert Martellacci (MA EdTech) is president of MindShare Learning Technology, Canada's leading EdTech strategy, news & events company he founded in 2001. Mr. Martellacci is also president & co-founder of C21 Canada—Canadians for 21st Century Learning & Innovation.

Mr. Martellacci is a lifelong learner who is committed to connecting business and education to transform learning in the 21st century to support student success. He completed a transformational learning journey as a mature student earning a master's in educational technology from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California which inspired the creation of the MindShare Learning Report—Canada's Learning & Technology eMagazine.

Mr. Martellacci has over 25 years of expertise and thought leadership in education as a former university administrator at York University; he also launched The Learning Company School Division for Kevin O'Leary which was the catalyst to forming his start-up MindShare Learning following the Mattel acquisition.

One of Martellacci's signature slogans, "until next time, keep the learning curve steep."



Dr. Sacha Noukhovitch
Executive Director & Editor-in-Chief
STEM Fellowship – Student Research and
Innovation Network

Dr. Sacha Noukhovitch a STEM education and student research expert and architect. He specializes in data-native generation learning and developing their natural data talents through data science and information technology-based education.

Dr. Noukhovitch is an Executive director of the STEM Fellowship - federal non-profit organization that prepares the next generation of change makers in STEM with indispensable skills in data science and scholarly writing through peer mentorship and experiential learning experience. He is also a practicing educator implementing data science education at Earl Haig Secondary School, Toronto.

He started his career as an electrical engineer in nuclear power industry and obtained his PhD in Management theory from Moscow State University. He was a founder and editor-in-chief of the Canadian Young Scientist Journal. He is a member of Ontario College of Teachers, sits on the marketing committee of the USA Council of Science Editors and LEAD Canada/LEAD International fellow.



Chantal Beaulieu
Executive Director
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada
(CMEC)

Observer

Chantal C. Beaulieu is Executive Director of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). CMEC is composed of the 23 provincial and territorial ministers who have responsibility for education and postsecondary education in Canada. The Council provides the ministers with a forum to discuss policy issues, a mechanism through which to carry out education projects, and means through which to represent Canada's education interests internationally.

Ms. Beaulieu was previously Assistant Deputy Minister, Services to Anglophones, Aboriginals, and Cultural Communities, of the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche. A lawyer by training, with a specialization in employment and education law, Ms. Beaulieu was in private practice until 1999, when she was appointed Director of Legal Services at the English Montreal School Board. She later moved to the Eastern Townships School Board, where she successively held the positions of Secretary General and Director of Labour Relations, Assistant Director General, and Director General. Ms. Beaulieu holds a Bachelor's of Law (LL.B.) and a Master's degree in Public Administration.