

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE ON INDUSTRY GROWTH

2016 – 2017

Meet our leaders:



Kim Allen, P.Eng., MBA, FEC, FCEA, IntPE,
APEC Engineer
Chief Executive Officer
Engineers Canada

Chair of Industry Growth Taskforce

Kim Allen is the chief executive officer of Engineers Canada, the national organization of organizations that regulate Canada's 290,000 engineers. Engineers Canada provides national and leadership and support to promote and maintain the integrity, honour, interests and excellence of the profession. It also accredits the 278 engineering programs at Canada's 44 engineering schools.

With more than 25 years of accomplishment as a chief executive in the public, private and association sectors, Mr. Allen implements winning strategies for the success of the engineering profession and the promotion of the competency, integrity and public accountability of engineers.

He also serves as an advisor to government related on matters related to engineering and regulation.

Mr. Allen currently sits on a number of boards and advisory committees. He is an electrical engineering graduate from University of Ottawa and holds a master of business administration from the University of Toronto's Rotman Business School.



Alexandra (Alex) Clark
Director of Policy and Government Affairs
Shopify

Alexandra (Alex) Clark is a senior public affairs professional with experience in a range of sectors including energy, infrastructure, transportation and technology. Alex is the Director of Government Relations at Shopify. In this role, she ensures Shopify creates, builds and fosters strong relationships with a variety of stakeholders including all three levels of government. A top priority for Alex is to foster a collaborative working relationship with government and encourage discussion around major policy issues facing the sector to create an environment where entrepreneurs can grow and succeed in Canada. Prior to joining Shopify, Alex was the Corporate Affairs for Microsoft Inc. in B.C. She was responsible for enhancing Microsoft's reputation by working with government, business and community stakeholders. Prior to Microsoft, Alex was a Senior Consultant at Global Public Affairs where she led the government relations, strategic communications and stakeholder engagement. Alex has also held a number of positions inside politics and government. She earned her political science degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario.



Bill Tam
President & CEO
BCTECH

Bill Tam has been an entrepreneur and startup advisor for over 20 years. In 2010, he joined BCTIA as a founding Centre4Growth mentor, advising startup and growth-stage firms. Prior to BCTIA, Bill was CEO of EQO Communications, a mobile app startup, a Partner at SpringBank TechVentures, an early-stage VC firm, and a founding executive at MetroNet – one of most successful telecom startups in Canada. Bill has held senior positions at AT&T, Rogers, and Bell Canada. He currently lends his expertise as an industry advisor for BCNet, Simon Fraser University and UBC and volunteers his time supporting students and aspiring entrepreneurs.



Kevin Wennekes
Vice President-Research
CATAAlliance

Kevin Wennekes is responsible for developing and executing "impact" research projects for the advancement of the technology industry and Canadian economic growth.

Kevin has led over 40 different studies and personally published over a dozen research papers on topics including public safety and emergency response, IT security, communications interoperability, global sourcing, high performance computing, and procurement practices and reform.

Kevin is also CATA's Canadian Executive Champion for China and responsible for developing and executing trade and investment opportunities in collaboration with CATA's office in Shenzhen. Kevin has helped in the development and execution of Canadian Pavilions for major China trade shows and missions and keynote speaker for Canadian receptions and panel discussions including locations such as the great Hall of the People.



Namir Anani
President & CEO
Information and Communications
Technology Council (ICTC)

Namir Anani, President and CEO of the Information and Communications Technology Council (ictc-ctic.ca), is the chief strategist and driving force in bringing ICTC's world-class centre of expertise and services to industry, education and government; enabling Canada's advancement as a leader in innovation, productivity in the global economy. Before joining ICTC, Namir previously led Policy Development & Research at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

He has also held several executive leadership roles in both the private and public sectors including the Department of Canadian Heritage (Director General & CEO), CGI consulting, Nortel, and Novartis (Switzerland). Mr. Anani's experience extends to; strategic policy development and implementation, learning and capacity building, business transformation, national/international strategic alliances, economic and market research, and technology innovation.

Namir holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Electrical Engineering from the University of Salford (UK) and holds Professional Engineer designation in Ontario (P. Eng.). He is also a board member of the Women in Communications and Technology.



Rob Annan
Chief Research Officer
Mitacs

Rob Annan is Chief Research Officer at Mitacs, a leading Canadian not-for-profit that supports innovation through skills development, research, and collaboration between students, researchers, and industry. His role involves oversight of policy, particularly research and reporting on Canadian innovation, as well as direction for Mitacs' research strategy and review processes. Prior to joining Mitacs, Rob worked as a consultant to universities, researchers and non-profit agencies for strategic planning and large-scale proposals, and was active as writer on science policy issues in Canada. Rob has a PhD in Biochemistry from McGill University, a BSc in Biology from University of Victoria and a BA in English from Queen's University.



Soumen Roy

Country Head, Canada

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

As Country Head, Soumen is responsible for TCS Canada's strategic direction, with overall responsibility for leading all facets of TCS' business across Canada.

Prior to this current role, Soumen led the spirited growth of TCS Japan. With 25 years experience, Soumen's accomplishments also span across Australia, USA and India.

During his 18 year tenure with TCS, Soumen has led the development of significant new business, as well as managed many successful and lasting client relationships.

Outside of the workplace, Soumen enjoys hiking and has a passion for sketching and landscape photography.



Tanya Woods

Vice-President, Policy and Legal Affairs
Entertainment Software Association of
Canada (ESAC)

Tanya is Vice-President, Policy and Legal Affairs for the Entertainment Software Association of Canada where she is responsible for ensuring that Canadian federal and provincial policies and legislation support the thriving multi-platform video game industry in Canada. Her work includes collaborating with stakeholders and government representatives to address legal and policy issues confronting video game companies located in Canada. These issues include: immigration for highly-skilled talent; digital skills development; intellectual property; tax credits; privacy law; and, international legal and treaty initiatives.

For more than a decade, Tanya has been addressing legal and policy challenges confronting creators, innovators, and policy makers in private and public entities in the UK, US and Canada. Prior to joining ESAC, Tanya worked as the in-house copyright specialist for a major Canadian telecommunications and broadcasting company. She also served as a member of Canada's intellectual property negotiating team for the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement; and, has significant experience working on complex copyright tariff and licensing matters relating to new and emerging technologies.

Tanya studied law at the London School of Economics, the University of Ottawa and American University Washington College of Law and is accredited with specializations in both Technology Law and International and Comparative Protection of Intellectual Property. Tanya frequently participates on panels, lectures and publishes (as writer and editor) on technology and copyright issues. She is also a co-founder of Girl Force, a local volunteer organization teaching girls and young women to make video games.



Valerie Walker

Vice President, Innovation & Skills
Business Council of Canada

Valerie Walker is Vice President of Innovation and Skills at the Business Council of Canada, a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization composed of the CEOs of Canada's leading enterprises. The Business Council engages in an active program of research, consultation, and advocacy on issues of national importance to the economic and social fabric of Canada. In her role, Val provides leadership on innovation, competitiveness, and labour market issues, and supports the work of the Business Higher Education Roundtable. Launched in 2015, the Roundtable represents some of Canada's largest companies and leading post-secondary institutions. Composed of leaders from the private sector, universities, colleges and polytechnics, the Roundtable works to support young Canadians as they transition from education to the workplace, strengthen research collaboration between industry and institutions, and help Canadian employers as they adapt to the economy of the future. Prior to joining the Business Council, Val was the Director of Policy at Mitacs, where she was responsible for maintaining strategic relationships with government and policy leaders on innovation policy and promoting Mitacs as a key player in Canada's innovation ecosystem. She has a PhD from McGill University and is an alumna of the Government of Canada's Recruitment of Policy Leaders Program.