



Agility in the 21st Century Conference

October 23, 2026 | Ron Joyce Centre

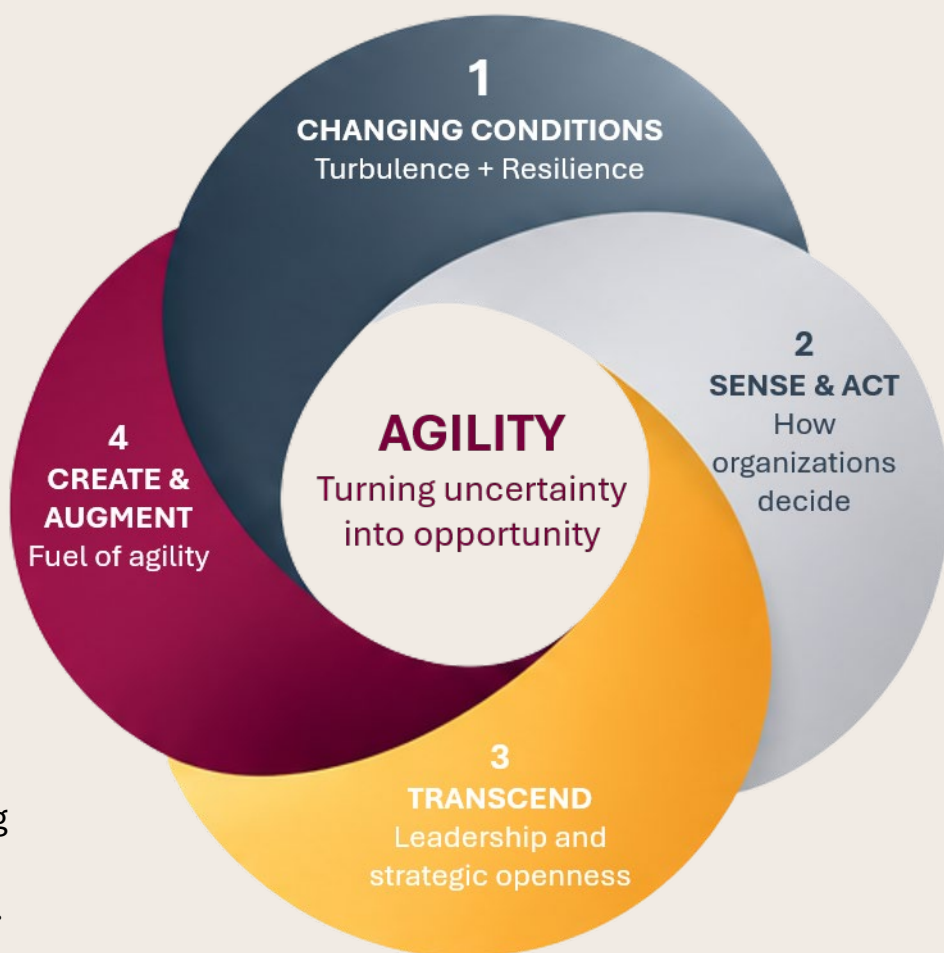
We are living through a period of profound and accelerating transformation. Technological disruption, geopolitical volatility, climate uncertainty and shifting societal expectations demand a new kind of readiness.

Uncertainty and ambiguity now permeate every aspect of work and life. For individuals and organizations to thrive, we need a paradigm shift: from control and rigidity to agility, fluidity, openness and dynamism.

The **Agility in the 21st Century Conference** brings together leaders, researchers, practitioners and foresight thinkers to explore what agility means in a world where yesterday's reference points can no longer be taken for granted.

The conference examines organizational resilience, sense-making in complex systems, strategic openness in leadership, and the role of creativity and human-centred approaches in turning uncertainty into opportunity.

Across 4 interconnected streams, we will explore the conditions, enablers and levers of agility, and consider how leaders and organizations can move beyond simply responding to change to actively shaping what comes next.





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SYMPOSIUM HOST

Foresight Lab

The **Foresight Lab at McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business** operates at the intersection of **strategic leadership, foresight, governance, innovation** and **human-centred approaches**, connecting leaders, researchers, and practitioners ready to navigate uncertainty and shape better futures.

At a time when the pace and complexity of change are accelerating, and as traditional approaches to strategy and decision-making prove insufficient, the Foresight Lab creates spaces to explore emerging possibilities, build new capabilities, and translate foresight into action. Through our core initiatives - **Collaborative Networks, Interdisciplinary Research, and Executive Education**, we support individuals and organizations in developing the agility needed for a rapidly shifting world.

The **Agility in the 21st Century Conference** reflects this commitment: a forum where diverse perspectives converge, assumptions are challenged, and new ways of thinking about leadership and organizational resilience can take root, co-creating insights that help shape more adaptive, imaginative, and future-ready institutions

SYMPOSIUM PARTNER

abd.works

abd.works helps large organizations **turn investments in technology, AI and, most importantly, their people into measurable business and client outcomes.**

We take a refreshingly human approach to disruptive change, focusing on the systems behind the tools: **end-to-end workflows, shared context and rapid feedback.**

Our teams work alongside clients on their biggest challenges, building capability as we go so they can keep improving after we leave.

Our core belief is simple: ***Tools don't transform companies. People do.***



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SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

TIME	PROGRAM
8:30 - 9:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
9:00 - 12:00	Opening Remarks Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Provost & VP Academic, McMaster University Lab Introduction Dr. Candice Chow, Director of the Foresight Lab Featured Keynote Dr. Riel Miller, Former UNESCO Head of Foresight and Futures Literacy Stream 1 – The Changing Conditions of Turbulence and Resilience Title Sponsor Address - abd.works Stream 2 – Knowledge Ecosystems in Transition
12:00 - 12:50	Lunch Tabletop Activity Networking
12:50 - 5:00	Research Spotlight Dr. Amir Taherizadeh, Assistant Professor, Strategic Management, DSB Stream 3 – Strategic Openness Lightening Talk with Dr. Jodie Lobana Stream 4 – Turning Change into an Asset Foresight in Practice Executive Certification Panel Flip Panel moderated by Professor Jan Klakurka Teaching Foresight - Dr. Candice Chow Conference Wrap-up (MC) Michael Cassabon, Director of Advancement, DSB
5:00 - 6:00	Networking Reception



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Stream 1 The Changing Conditions of Turbulence and Resilience in the 21st Century: Setting the Stage

The rules have changed, but most organizations are still playing by the old ones. This session cuts through the noise of headlines and volatility to ask a harder question: what is actually different now, and what does that mean for how leaders build resilience? Speakers bring perspectives from policy, finance, energy, and global affairs to examine the conditions shaping the next decade, and what it takes to find new footing when yesterday's reference points no longer hold.



Indrani Butany
Managing Director, Canada
Atrium Economics



Sean Deschamps
Partner
abd.works



Bonny Ibhawoh
Vice-Provost, International Affairs
McMaster University



Riel Miller
*Former Head of Foresight &
Futures Literacy*
UNESCO



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Stream 2 Knowledge Ecosystems in Transition: How Organizations Sense, Decide, and Act

What counts as credible knowledge in your organization, and who gets to decide? In a world flooded with data and disrupted by AI, the real leadership challenge isn't access to information: it's knowing what to trust, what to question, and how to build organizations that can learn faster than their environment changes. More importantly, what new skills are needed in this new knowledge ecosystem? This session examines how the ground rules of knowledge - who generates it, how to discern and generate insights and how it drives decisions - are shifting across industries, and what leaders can do about it.



Jonathan Calof

UNESCO Co-Chair on
Anticipatory Systems for
Innovation and Venture Creation



Brett Huttman

Vice President, Strategy,
Marketing & Communication
Purolator Inc.



Vivian Lewis

Associate Vice-President and
University Librarian
McMaster University



Gordon Sandford

National Lead Partner
Ernst & Young - Canada



Catherine Connelly

Professor and Business
Research Chair
McMaster University



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Stream 3 Strategic Openness: How Leaders Transcend What They Already Know

Every organization has invisible boxes - assumptions so embedded that they feel like facts. Agility isn't just about moving fast; it is about being able to question the frame you're operating in. This session brings together leaders from healthcare, digital health, pharmaceuticals, and adjacent sectors who have done exactly that - to examine how strategic openness gets built and what it makes possible. The discussion goes beyond disruption as a buzzword to examine the practical conditions under which leaders and organizations genuinely redesign their assumptions in real time.



Gaby Bourbara

*Country President Canada
AstraZeneca*



Marc Jeschk

*VP Research & Innovation &
Chief Scientific Officer
Hamilton Health Sciences*



Winnie Lee

*Chief of Staff and Chief of
Diagnostic Imaging
Cambridge Memorial Hospital*



Kristine McTaggart

*Senior Vice President Operations
Dialogue*



Mary Nash

*Executive Fellow
Higher Ambition Leadership
Alliance*



Goran Calic

*Associate Professor of
Strategic Management
McMaster University*



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Stream 4 Turning Change into an Asset: Creativity, AI, and the Fuel of Agility

What separates organizations that are energized by change from those that are exhausted by it? This session argues that the answer is imagination; specifically, the trained capacity to see what is not yet there and to act on it responsibly. Speakers from AI, technology leadership, and organizational design examine how creativity, governance, and human-centered thinking combine to make change a resource rather than a risk. The conversation is grounded in real decisions, real organizations, and the hard question of how you actually build a culture that moves with, rather than against disruption.



Ashley Beattie

*Head of AI
abd.works*



Paul Hartley

*CEO
Human Futures*



Jodie Lobana

*CEO & Founder
AIGE Global Advisors*



Sanjay Pathak

*Partner & National Leader
KPMG*



Shane Saunderson

*Director of the Research on
Artificial Persons (RAP) Lab
McMaster University*



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Speaker Profiles



Ashley Beattie

Head of AI, abd.works

Ashley Beattie works at the intersection of organizational design, artificial intelligence, and human-centered innovation, to help organizations harness AI to drive meaningful transformation, strengthen operational excellence, and navigate an increasingly complex environment. He is also Head of Cyber Capability Development with His Majesty's Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, where he contributes to building capabilities for an evolving security landscape. As a member of the Foresight Lab Advisory Council, Ashley brings a strong interest in sense-making, perspective-taking, and systems thinking to help leaders better understand uncertainty and prepare for multiple possible futures. He is passionate about advancing foresight-informed leadership education and practice.



Gaby Bourbara

Country President Canada, AstraZeneca

Gaby Bourbara is President of AstraZeneca Canada and a proven senior business and people leader with 25 years of experience across the Canadian, U.S. and global biopharmaceutical industry. Passionate about bold science, improving patient care, and the power of diversity and inclusion, Gaby has built a career leading business through transformation and growth, guiding major clinical investment decisions, and setting global strategy for innovative medicines. His leadership spans oncology, rare disease, respiratory and cardiovascular care. Gaby currently sits as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC), the industry association for Canada's research-based pharmaceutical industry.



Indrani Butany

Managing Director, Canada, Atrium Economics

Indrani (Indy) Butany is Managing Director, Canada at Atrium Economics ULC and a seasoned energy executive with more than 25 years of experience leading through transformation, regulatory change and disruption. A former President and CEO of Elexicon Energy and senior executive at Alectra and Horizon Utilities, she brings a practical perspective to the intersection of strategy, innovation, public policy and the energy transition. Indy is Chair of the Dean's Advisory Council at McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business and an experienced corporate director. She holds an MBA from McMaster University and the ICD.D designation and is a recipient of Canada's Clean50 Award.



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Speaker Profiles



Dr. Goran Calic

Associate Professor of Strategic Management, McMaster University

Dr. Goran Calic is the Entrepreneurship Leadership Chair and Associate Professor of Strategy at McMaster University. He holds a PhD in Strategy, with a minor in economics from Purdue University. His research has been published in Strategic Management Journal, Nature, Harvard Business Review, and other top journals. Previously Calic served as Director of McMaster's MBA programs. From 2024 to 2025, Calic held a Visiting Scholar appointment in the Strategy Unit at Harvard Business School. He is the founder of NSDA Corp, a company that develops defense-in-depth AI architectures for the most demanding, highly regulated, safety-critical industries, such as nuclear energy.



Dr. Jonathan Calof

UNESCO Co-Chair on Anticipatory Systems for Innovation and Venture Creation

Dr. Jonathan Calof is the UNESCO co-chair on anticipatory systems for innovation and venture creation. He combines research and consulting in competitive intelligence, foresight, market insight and analytics to help organizations develop anticipatory systems that will lead to the innovative products, services and government programs needed for tomorrow. In 2025, Jonathan was presented in the Senate of Canada with the King Charles III Coronation medal. In 2024, the Globe and Mail Report on Business wrote that Dr. Calof was "the éminence grise of Canadian CI theorists" while various other media (including international referred to Jonathan as "regarded worldwide as a competitive intelligence guru". He is also the recipient of many honours including Frost and Sullivans Life Time achievement award. Jonathan sits on numerous boards both corporate and community including service as Vice-Chair of the Pearson Center for Progressive Policy and the board of advisors for the Strategic Consortium of Intelligence Professionals.



Michael Cassabon

Executive Director, DSB Advancement, McMaster University

Michael Cassabon is Executive Director, Advancement at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University, where he leads the School's fundraising, alumni engagement, and strategic partnerships. A seasoned leader in university advancement, he has spent his career helping institutions and individuals turn possibility into commitment. His path has been anything but linear — from the priesthood to philanthropy, from the U.S. to Europe to Canada — and that experience shapes his work as a writer and speaker on transformation, integration, and leading through change.



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Dr. Candice Chow

Director of Foresight Lab, McMaster University

Dr. Candice Chow is the Director of the Foresight Lab and an Assistant Professor of Strategic Management at the DeGroote School of Business. Prior to becoming a full-time academic, she held senior management positions across continents for over 25 years, leading enterprise transformation projects and strategy development at scale. Her research sits at the intersection of strategic leadership, values-based management, foresight and governance, with a focus on how organizations navigate uncertainty while remaining anchored in human-centric and sustainable principles. She directs the Lab's focal initiatives in interdisciplinary research, executive education and collaborative networks, representing the Lab in international foresight networks, supporting research funding decisions, and designing and delivering executive education offerings.



Dr. Catherine Connelly

Professor and Business Research Chair, McMaster University

Dr. Catherine Connelly, PhD is a professor and Business Research Chair of organizational behavior at the DeGroote School of Business. She is the founder and director of the McMaster Centre for Research on Employment and Work (MCREW) and the McMaster Organizational Behaviour Laboratory (MOBL). Her research is about changing workplaces, with specific focus on the experiences of temporary foreign workers, gig workers including in the arts industry, workers with disabilities, and entry-level employees. She is the author of *Enduring Work* and over 50 journal articles and her work has been profiled by CBC, The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, and other media outlets.



Sean Deschamps

Partner, abd.works

Sean Deschamps is a Partner at abd.works. He has led mission-critical change across finance, healthcare and manufacturing, focusing on the human systems behind the tools. He works with large organizations to turn investments in technology, AI and, most importantly, their people into measurable business and client outcomes. Sean combines foresight with practical experimentation to challenge assumptions, navigate uncertainty and strengthen organizations' ability to thrive through disruptive change. His work is grounded in end-to-end ownership, shared context and rapid feedback, helping teams solve their biggest challenges.



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Speaker Profiles



Dr. Paul Hartley

CEO, Human Futures

Dr. Paul Hartley, PhD is CEO of Human Futures, a global insight and foresight partner advising companies, NGOs, and governments. An anthropologist, foresight practitioner, author, speaker, and instructor, Paul has over 15 years of applied research experience, providing insights and strategic advice to more than 150 organizations worldwide, from Fortune 50/500 companies to start-ups and VCs. He has worked with boards, C-suites, and innovation teams, helping shape products, services, brands, and experiences. While doing this Paul has maintained his connections with academia. He writes and teaches the next generation of insights and foresight practitioners. Paul is the author of articles, white papers, and the book *Radical Human Centricity: Fulfilling the Promises of Innovation Research*, published in 2022.



Dr. Charlotte Heidsiek

Founding Principal, Future Work Consulting

Dr. Charlotte Heidsiek is the Founding Principal of Future Work Consulting in Hamburg, Germany, with a mandate of "Consulting for executives and organisations that do not wait for change – but proactively shape it." As a Future Work Consultant, she supports people and organisations facing change, helping them turn transformation into an opportunity for growth. She works with international corporations, medium-sized companies and start-ups, navigating challenging transformations that matter. For over 20 years, she has combined consulting, research and hands-on experience. After completing her PhD at Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, she spent 10 years in international consulting before founding Future Work Consulting and the Future Leadership Lab.



Brett Huttman

Vice President, Strategy, Marketing & Communication, Purolator Inc.

Brett Huttman is the Vice President, Strategy, Marketing & Communications at Purolator Inc., Canada's leading integrated freight, parcel, and logistics solutions provider. Brett joined Purolator in 2021, bringing with him extensive experience in marketing, strategy, and innovation. Prior to joining Purolator, Brett served as the Head of Strategy and Innovation at the LCBO, leading the introduction of on-demand delivery of alcohol in the province. In his current role, Brett oversees the marketing, communications, and strategy functions, responsible for developing the long-term strategic plan and stewarding the brand for Purolator. He is known for his ability to identify and capitalize on emerging trends, and his expertise in developing innovative product and service offerings that meet the evolving needs of customers.



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Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh

Vice-Provost (International Affairs), McMaster University

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh is the Vice-Provost (International Affairs) of McMaster University. He is a Professor and the Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights at the University. He serves as Independent Expert-Rapporteur of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development in the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva. He is the founding Director of the McMaster Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice. With over 30 years of experience as a human rights educator, policymaker, and practitioner, he has taught in Universities in Africa, Europe, the United States and Canada. He coordinates the Confronting Atrocity Project, a transnational study of post-conflict truth and reconciliation processes. He is also the Project Director of Participedia, a global research network on public participation and democratic innovations. Bonny serves on the Board of several International human rights and development organizations. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.



Dr. Marc Jeschke

VP Research & Innovation & Chief Scientific Officer, Hamilton Health Sciences

Dr. Marc Jeschke is currently the Vice-President of Research & Innovation for Hamilton Health Sciences and is a Professor in the Departments of Surgery, Biochemistry, and Biomedical Sciences at McMaster University. He has been caring for burn patients and conducting research in the field of burns for 30 years, and is a global leader in burn care, research, and education. According to Expertscape, he is the second highest-ranked expert in burns in the world. He is a Surgeon-Scientist with a continuous commitment to scholarly work and an essential role in worldwide multicenter clinical trials. His work is translational, and his research interests include investigating the profound metabolic alterations post-burn injury and novel techniques for wound coverage and skin regeneration.



Dr. Michael Justason

Director of W Booth School of Engineering Practice & Technology, McMaster University

Dr. Michael Justason is an Associate Professor and Director of the W Booth School in the Faculty of Engineering at McMaster. Michael teaches courses in geotechnical engineering and engineering economics. He has a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and Management, a Master's in Earthquake Engineering, and an executive-MBA. Michael spent 18-years at Bermingham Construction in Hamilton, and has worked in over 40 countries. Michael is an award-winning teacher, having won the President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and the Students' Union Award of Distinction. Michael is a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and CEO of the start-up company, LightBoard Depot.



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Jan Klakurka

Principal, Elevae Strategic Advisory

Jan Klakurka is principal of Elevae Strategic Advisory (foresight consultancy) and tenured Associate Professor/Past Chair of Management at Huron University (Western). Jan is a C. Dir., CPA, CA, CMC, and decade+ member of Association of Professional Futurists (APF). He has three-plus decades in industry, professional services and academia, co-founding Huron's interdisciplinary Governance, Leadership & Ethics program, designing/introducing Canada's only undergraduate foresight course, and bringing his Real-Life Consulting Project© (designed at Rotman, 2011) - giving students >250 innovative projects. Jan's published in Foresight, judged APF's awards, advised eCampus-Ontario's Managing Complexity for the 21st Century, and sits on Foresight Lab's (McMaster) Advisory Council.



Dr. Winnie Lee

Chief of Staff and Chief of Diagnostic Imaging, Cambridge Memorial Hospital

Dr. Winnie Lee has led initiatives spanning digital health integration, quality improvement, and is actively involved in local and provincial health system planning. She is an accredited Executive Coach and holds an Executive MBA in Innovation Leadership, multiple executive designations, and an adjunct clinical professorship at McMaster University. As a member of the Foresight Lab Advisory Council, Winnie brings a futures-focused perspective to health system strategy, resilience, and transformation. Her experience bridges clinical leadership, innovation, and strategic foresight, with a focus on helping health systems navigate complexity, adapt to emerging challenges, and build capacity for a rapidly evolving future.



Vivian Lewis

Associate Vice-President and University Librarian, McMaster University

Vivian Lewis has held the position of Associate Vice-President and University Librarian at McMaster University since 2013. Vivian currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). She is the Chair of the Association of Research Libraries' Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and a member of the Professional Council of the International Federation of Library Associations. She is a former President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (the voice of Canada's largest research libraries) and the former Chair of the Ontario Council of University Libraries. Vivian is a frequent speaker on topics related to strategic planning (including scenario planning), assessment and workforce learning.



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Dr. Maureen MacDonald

Provost and Vice-President (Academic), McMaster University

Dr. Maureen J. MacDonald, Ph.D. is Provost and Vice President (Academic) at McMaster University and a professor in the Department of Kinesiology. She assumed the role in July 2025, bringing more than two decades of experience in academic leadership, research, and student mentorship. As Provost, Maureen oversees academic administration, strategic planning, and budget management across McMaster's Faculties and support units. Previously, she served as Dean of the Faculty of Science, where she led initiatives in academic planning, faculty recruitment, infrastructure development, and research opportunities. A recognized scholar in cardiovascular physiology and exercise science, Maureen directs McMaster's Vascular Dynamics Laboratory and has supervised more than 200 students and postdoctoral researchers. Her work continues to foster collaborative research, teaching, and innovation nationally and internationally.



Dr. Jodie Lobana

CEO & Founder, AIGE Global Advisors

Dr. Jodie Lobana, PhD, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D, is CEO & Founder of AIGE Global Advisors and holds the world's first PhD focused exclusively on AI governance for corporate boards. A trusted advisor to boards, Crown corporations, governments, and UN agencies, she helps leaders adopt AI strategically while embedding oversight and safety. She has trained 8,500+ professionals from 50+ countries, serves as Course Director of IT Governance at York University, and chairs the Advisory Board of McMaster's AI Society. She is the author of Holistic Governance of Artificial Intelligence and leads TeraTera Collaborations Inc., a not-for-profit advancing AI for social good.



Kristine McTaggart

Senior Vice President Operations, Dialogue

Kristine McTaggart is the Senior Vice President Operations at Dialogue, where she leads healthcare operations for a platform serving more than 10 million Canadians. She has spent decades at the intersection of strategy, operations, and transformation, with expertise in organizational transformation, growth, change management, and building new businesses from the ground up. Kristine brings strategic clarity and operational discipline to complex change, along with the people skills to bring teams along. Passionate about healthcare innovation and virtual care, she is also a strong advocate for women in leadership, supporting emerging leaders through mentoring, coaching, community, and networks.



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Dr. Riel Miller

Former UNESCO Head of Foresight and Futures Literacy

Dr. Riel Miller is a pioneer of the “discipline of anticipation” and a global leader in futures literacy. He served as UNESCO’s Head of Foresight and Futures Literacy from 2012 to 2022, and is a key co-designer as well as lead instructor of the Foresight Lab’s Strategic Foresight Certification Program and Executive Masterclass on Foresight and Futures Literacy. A globally experienced project initiator, designer, and manager with more than 40 years of experience across the public and private sectors, Riel brings deep expertise in innovation, leadership and transformation. As a widely published speaker and an accomplished keynote speaker and facilitator, he is also known for helping decision makers challenge assumptions and unlock the transformative potential of the present.



Dr. Mary Nash

Executive Fellow, Higher Ambition Leadership Alliance

Dr. Mary Nash is an Executive Fellow with the Higher Ambition Leadership Alliance, and a Director with TruePoint. As a senior advisor, executive coach, and organization development and change leader, Mary partners with purpose-driven leaders to strengthen organizational performance and stakeholder experience. Mary is recognized for her ability to help organizations build internal capacity for sustained strategic and transformational change. With more than 30 years’ experience across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, Mary works at the intersection of research and practice, translating evidence into practical leadership and organizational solutions. Mary serves on faculty for Fielding Graduate University’s doctoral program on Organization Development and Change.



Sanjay Pathak

Partner & National Leader, KPMG

Sanjay Pathak is a Partner and National Leader of Technology Strategy & Digital Transformation Services at KPMG in Canada. With more than 30 years of global consulting experience across Canada, the United States, Australia, Europe, South America, and Japan, he advises leading organizations on digital, business, and technology transformation. Sanjay is also the Global Lead Relationship Partner for a major Canadian bank, where he oversees KPMG’s role in strategic, large-scale transformation initiatives. He is passionate about advancing STEM education and supporting programs that create opportunities for disadvantaged youth, helping develop the next generation of innovators, leaders, and positive community impact.



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Gordon Sandford

National Lead Partner, Ernst & Young - Canada

Gordon Sandford is the National Lead Partner for Digital Transformation and Lifelong Learning and the AI Academy. He has over 35 year's experience at the intersection of business and IT. In this time, he regularly worked on future state business strategies, detailed technology review and future state migrations, new business and technology operating models and detailed business cases and value analysis to maximize the impact of the transformation efforts. In this experience Gordon realized that it's not technology that what is holding companies back from achieving their aspirations in the Digital Age. What is holding people back are human factors: mindset, culture, leadership, ways of working, capabilities and op models. With that vision Gordon launched a new strategic initiative nationally called Future Ready Workforce with the Modern Government Academy and AI Academy offerings. The focus is to prepare organizations and their people to be more future ready in the flow of doing real work.



Dr. Shane Saunderson

Director of the Research on Artificial Persons (RAP) Lab, McMaster University

Dr. Shane Saunderson is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems at McMaster University and Director of the Research on Artificial Persons (RAP) Lab, where he explores the social and organizational implications of AI, robotics, and increasingly humanlike technologies. An entrepreneur, researcher, and innovation strategist, Shane has over a decade of experience advising Fortune 500 companies on digital strategy, disruptive innovation, and emerging technologies. He lectures on digital transformation, design thinking, and emerging technologies through executive education. His work examines how emerging technologies may reshape organizations, society, and human-machine relationships, bringing a futures-oriented perspective to navigating uncertainty, anticipating change, and imagining how technology can shape the future.



Kirk Serjeantson

Chief Information Officer, Northland Power

Kirk Serjeantson is a technology executive, educator, inventor and transformation leader focused on how emerging technologies can reshape business. As Chief Information Officer at Northland Power, Kirk leads technology and digital transformation within a global energy organization. His career spans energy, transportation and logistics, where he has led large-scale initiatives in mobility, automation, data and operational technology. Kirk holds an MBA and a Master of Design from OCAD University, where his research explored the evolution of the CIO from traditional technologist to creative and innovative business leader. He is also a university professor, inventor and patent holder. His current interests sit at the intersection of artificial intelligence, human creativity, systems thinking and foresight—and how leaders can move beyond reacting to change to actively shaping what comes next.



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Dr. Amir Taherizadeh

Assistant Professor in Strategic Management, McMaster University

Dr. Amir Taherizadeh is an Assistant Professor of Strategic Management at McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business. His research and teaching focus on innovation strategy, technological entrepreneurship, sustainability transitions, and AI-driven digital transformation. Amir holds a Ph.D. in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and completed postdoctoral research at CIRANO in collaboration with Polytechnique Montréal. With more than 15 years of international industry and consulting experience across the IT and energy sectors, his work bridges technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and strategic management. He has authored academic publications, business case studies, and industry reports, and has delivered executive education programs on innovation, entrepreneurship, and strategy for senior leaders and organizations.



Keith Taylor

Executive Director, DUCA Impact Lab, DUCA Credit Union

Keith Taylor leads the DUCA Impact Lab, a social finance innovation hub founded by DUCA Credit Union. The Impact Lab works as a platform for Canadian Credit Unions to leverage emerging technology and community-based insights to build banking models that benefit all members of the community. During his career at DUCA, he has led the development of Canada's first social purpose mortgage product, the emergence of DUCA as Toronto's first living wage employer, and the certification of DUCA as the first B-Corp Credit Union in the world. Prior to DUCA, Keith worked as a strategic advisor to a group of companies accounting for over \$500 million of community investment annually and has led community innovation in several contexts in Canada and internationally. Keith is a League of Intrapreneurs Global Fellow and holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University and a BA from Saint Francis Xavier University.