

# EXECUTIVE SUMMIT AGENDA

## MESSY MIDDLE: HOW BUSINESS + HIGHER EDUCATION ARE GETTING HARD THINGS DONE IN CANADA

**8:30 - 9:00 AM**

REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST

**9:00 - 9:15 AM**

OPENING REMARKS: VAL WALKER, CEO, BUSINESS +  
HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE (BHER)

**9:15 - 10:00 AM**

RENOVATING ROGERS CENTRE

A special session with PCL Construction and the Toronto Blue Jays about the Rogers Centre Renovation. Rogers Centre – the home of the Toronto Blue Jays – underwent a multi-year, nearly \$400 million CAD, privately funded renovation. Work was completed on a fast-tracked timeline in two distinct phases. The second phase required 18 months of work completed in just 5 months, opening on-time for the club's Home Opener. Members of both teams will talk about how they pulled it off.



**Jenny Haag,**  
Founder and  
President, RISE Design  
Build Integration



**Matthew McKean,**  
Chief R&D Officer,  
BHER (*Moderator*)



**Sanj Perera,**  
Senior Director,  
CAA ICON



**John Schmalz,**  
Construction Manager,  
PCL Construction



**Sean Shabaga,**  
Project Director, PCL  
Construction

**10:00 - 10:30 AM**

UNLOCKING WORKFORCE POTENTIAL THROUGH  
FULLY ONLINE LEARNING

Canada needs a workforce that's diverse, adaptable, and ready to overcome our productivity challenges. But we're underusing a major tool for creating that workforce. Fully online learning can reach untapped student demographics who bring different experiences and perspectives at a financially accessible cost for both learners and post-secondary institutions. In this session supported by Risepoint, Nicole Johnson, a leading expert on digital learning trends, will talk about what's working, what's not, and how we can harness fully online learning programs to drive real change for Canada's economy. Robert Luke from eCampusOntario will moderate.



**Nicole Johnson**  
Executive Director at Canadian  
Digital Learning Research  
Association, Risepoint  
Consultant



**Robert Luke,**  
CEO,  
eCampusOntario  
(*Moderator*)

**10:30 - 10:45 AM**

BREAK

[CONTINUE >](#)

10:45 - 11:15 AM

## STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIES

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, more than 20 Indigenous organizations developed the National Indigenous Economic Strategy (NIES), a groundbreaking Indigenous-led initiative dedicated to achieving socio-economic parity for Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Strengthening Indigenous economies means strengthening Canada's economy. In conversation with Val Walker, Jacqueline Ottmann, President of First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) will talk about the National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute (NIEPI) at FNUniv and its role in ensuring not only that progress is made but that economic growth and reconciliation for Indigenous people, businesses, lands, and resources are sustained.



**Jacqueline Ottmann,**  
President, First Nations University of Canada



**Val Walker,**  
CEO, BHER

11:15 - 12:00 PM

## INNOVATING HOW TO PREPARE AND TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLIMATE LEADERS

We need highly trained people to respond to our most complex challenges. To succeed, they need to engage and connect with businesses and community members outside institutional labs and libraries. BHER member Université Laval is leading the charge with its Chantiers d'avenir program. In a conversation moderated by Stephen Lucas, CEO, Mitacs, Sophie D'Amours, Rectrice, Université Laval, Geneviève Fortier, CEO, Promutuel Assurance, Luc Sirois, Quebec's Chief Innovation Officer, Conseil de l'innovation du Québec, and a graduate of the program will talk about transforming graduate training. Portions of this session will be presented in French, and live translation options will be available through your mobile device.



**Frédérique Brais-Chaput**  
Étudiante à la maîtrise en action climatique, Université Laval



**Sophie D'Amours,**  
Rectrice, Université Laval



**Geneviève Fortier,**  
CEO, Promutuel Assurance



**Stephen Lucas,**  
CEO, Mitacs  
(Moderator)



**Luc Sirois,**  
Chief Innovation Officer, Quebec

12:00 - 1:00 PM

## NETWORKING LUNCHEON WITH REMARKS FROM: MELISSA LANTSMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THORNHILL, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA



**Melissa Lantsman**  
Member of Parliament for Thornhill, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

1:00 - 1:45 PM

## TRANSFORMING SKILLS ASSESSMENT THROUGH RESPONSIBLE AI

Employers need talent with human skills, but they're the hardest thing to assess, especially during the hiring process. Knockri is solving for that through its science-based, industry-validated machine learning platform that provides skills and behavioural assessment that de-biases hiring and improves recruitment and retention. They're improving equity and efficiency along the way. Hear from leaders at Hydro One, IBM, and Deloitte.



**Farah Alexis,**  
Chief Ethics  
Officer, Hydro One



**Jahanzaib Ansari,**  
Co-Founder and  
CEO, Knockri



**Manav Gupta,**  
Chief Technology  
Officer, IBM Canada



**Zabeen Hirji,**  
Executive Advisor, Future of  
Work, Deloitte and Purposeful  
Third Act (*Moderator*)

1:45 - 2:30 PM

## CHANGING THE UPSKILLING GAME IN CANADA

SkillsWave, founded by John Baker, CEO of D2L (a BHER member), is cracking the code on what skills employers need and how to connect them to post-secondary programming. The SkillsWave team, with some of their employer partners, will talk about how they're changing the upskilling game in Canada and abroad, including how AI can be used to scale skills mapping and learning pathways within organizations.



**Robert Luke,**  
CEO,  
eCampusOntario  
(*Moderator*)



**Rob McIntosh,**  
Division Manager of  
Learning and Performance,  
Bruce Power



**Sasha Thackaberry,**  
President, SkillsWave



**Kristina Tsiriotakis,**  
Senior Director of Learning  
& Organizational  
Development, D2L

2:30 - 3:00 PM

## RETHINKING IMMIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TALENT IN CANADA

With recent changes to Canada's international student program, we're definitely in the messy middle when it comes to understanding the impact on international talent recruitment, the financial sustainability of post-secondary institutions, and regional labour markets. BHER member Martin Basiri, Founder and CEO of Passage, will offer his diagnosis and a provocation about how to fix Canada's immigration and refugee systems. Martin will be joined by a special guest.



**Martin Basiri,**  
Founder and  
CEO, Passage



**Scott Harris**  
Associate Deputy Minister,  
Immigration, Refugees and  
Citizenship Canada

3:00 - 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 - 5:00 PM

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CANADA'S ECONOMY

BHER is bringing together no less than 10 of its industry and post-secondary members to talk about the evolving role of post-secondary education in Canada and the sector's role in making Canada more productive. Val Walker, BHER's CEO, in conversation with John Stackhouse, Senior Vice-President, Office of the CEO, RBC, will seed the conversation by talking about a forthcoming BHER-RBC Thought Leadership Report, part of the Growth Project, and challenge BHER's member CEOs and Presidents to identify what's working, what's not, and what needs to change.



David Agnew, President, Seneca College



John Baker, CEO, D2L



Martin Basiri, Founder and CEO, Passage



Meti Basiri, Co-Founder and CEO, ApplyBoard



Sophie D'Amours, Rectrice, Université Laval



Neil Fassina, President, Okanagan College



Vivek Goel, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Waterloo



Laura Jo Gunter, President and CEO, NAIT



Jacqueline Ottmann, President, First Nations University of Canada



John Stackhouse, Senior Vice-President, Office of the CEO, RBC



Ann Marie Vaughan, President and CEO, Humber Polytechnic



Val Walker, CEO, BHER



Jeff Zabudsky, President, BCIT

5:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS: VAL WALKER, CEO, BHER

5:15 PM

NETWORKING RECEPTION

SUPPORTED BY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:



Passage.

