

Speakers Bio



Adam Buzanis

Senior Director Private Equity, CAAT Pension Plan

Adam is Senior Director, Private Equity at CAAT Pension Plan and leads all aspects of the Plan's global private equity portfolio, with a focus on origination, execution and portfolio management. Adam brings over 18 years of investment management experience with a specialization in private equity and private credit. Adam serves on several corporate boards and the advisory committees for partnerships within CAAT's private equity portfolio. Adam is a CFA charterholder and earned a Master of Finance degree from the Smith School of Business at Queen's University.



Alex Bronstein

VP Business Development, DW Healthcare Partners

Alex joined DW Healthcare Partners in 2016 and leads the firm's business development efforts including sourcing and evaluating new healthcare platform investment opportunities and add-ons for portfolio companies, fundraising and managing key intermediaries for the firm. Prior to joining DWHP, Alex worked for a search fund in Toronto, UBS in institutional sales, and SEI Investments, an asset management provider based outside of Philadelphia.



Allie Bradford
**Managing Director, Americas Leveraged Finance,
CPP Investments**

Allie is a Managing Director within the Capital Solutions Group at CPP Investments and is based in Toronto. In her role, Allie is responsible for originating, evaluating and managing credit investments within the Americas across public and private markets. She currently leads efforts in healthcare and life sciences credit investing, focusing on corporate lending as well as structured investments. Within the CPP Investments portfolio, Allie serves as a board member at Antares Holdings GP Inc. and is a board observer at American Veterinary Group. Allie is a current member of the CPP Investments Capital Solutions Group Investment Committee and the Private Equity Investment Committee and previously served as a member of the Asia Pacific Credit Investment Committee.



Atul Ojha
**Partner, Cyber Engineering Leader for North America,
RSM Canada**

Atul is an experienced technology and cybersecurity leader with a focus on addressing complex business and technical challenges across cybersecurity, digital transformation, risk, compliance, and privacy. In his role as Partner and Cyber Engineering Leader for North America at RSM, he is responsible for leading the development and management of critical cybersecurity capabilities, including Digital Identity (IAM), Cloud Security, Data Security, DevSecOps, Privacy Engineering, and OT Security.



Brandon Beadow
Director, RBC Mid-Market Mergers & Acquisitions

Brandon Beadow is a Director with RBC's Mid-Market Mergers & Acquisitions Group where he leads their teams business development efforts and provides coverage of numerous private equity firms, family offices and private investment firms across North America. In his role, Brandon is focused on providing both RBC partners & owners of private businesses with advice in respect of planning, structuring and executing M&A transactions in a variety of succession and growth related situations. Prior to joining the M&A team, Brandon worked with RBC Dominion Securities as an Associate Advisor.



David Clarke

Head, Government Affairs TMX Group

David Clarke is a seasoned professional with a diverse background in government affairs, political strategy, and indigenous and community relations.

Currently serving as the Head of Government and Community Affairs at TMX Group, David plays a pivotal role in advocating on behalf of Canada's public company ecosystem.

Prior to joining TMX, David served in various roles in government and politics including as Executive Director of the Ontario Liberal Party, in the Office of the Ontario Minister of Finance, and with the Office of the Premier of Ontario. He has held senior roles in provincial and federal political campaigns across Canada.



David Lametti

Counsel, Fasken

David Lametti is currently Counsel at Fasken and an Adjunct Professor at McGill University, Faculty of Law. As the most recent former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada he has a unique blend of legal acumen and political insight following over 25 years of experience as a Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law at McGill University, Parliamentary Secretary to both the Minister of International Trade and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Member of Parliament for LaSalle-Émard-Verdun and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.



Eric Berke

Managing Partner, TorQuest Partners

Eric Berke is the co-founder and Managing Partner of TorQuest, which was formed in 2002. Prior to TorQuest, Eric led the turnaround and sale of Gustin Kramer, a manufacturer of paper and non-woven consumer products, where he served as the company's President and CEO and controlling shareholder from 1994 to 2002. Eric serves as a director, or observer on each of the TorQuest portfolio companies. Outside of TorQuest, Eric has formerly served as a director of the Toronto Board of Trade, the Canadian Venture Capital Association and Crescent School.

Eric holds an MBA from Boston University and a B.A. from the University of Vermont.



Hon. Erin O'Toole

President and Managing Director of ADIT North America

Erin O'Toole is the President and Managing Director of ADIT North America and serves on the executive committee of ADIT Group in Paris. He assumed this role after leaving elected office and having served as the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. Erin was elected to the Canadian Parliament four times serving in cabinet and as Leader of the Opposition. He had a particular policy focus on foreign policy, defence, trade and economic issues. Erin ran to become Prime Minister in the 2021 general election held amid the COVID-19 pandemic winning the popular vote



Graeme Roustan

Executive Chairman and Owner, Roustan Capital

Since leaving a Wall Street firm in 1989, Mr. Roustan has been very active in the investment industry. One of the many acquisitions that he led is the 2008 purchase of BAUER from NIKE for \$200 million dollars followed by bolt-on acquisitions of Mission Itec, Cascade and Maverik prior to taking the company public in 2011 as its Chairman reaching a valuation of \$1.4 billion dollars.

Since then Mr. Roustan has acquired Heritage Hockey, Christian Hockey, Northland Hockey, McKenney Hockey, McKenney Lacrosse as well as other entities. In 2018, he also acquired The Hockey News, which was founded in 1947. Being a lifelong enthusiast and avid reader of The Bible of Hockey as many in the industry refer to it as, he invested in the brand and today its website clocks over 150 million pageviews a year and the print magazine has never been better.



Gregory Moore, CFA, FEA

Portfolio Manager, Partner, Richter Family Business Office

Accomplished, driven, yet known for his kindness, Greg has big ideas that match the scope of his ambition. A great people connector he loves to build durable, effective business relationships. His enthusiastic nature means that he is ready to jump whole heartedly into every project he takes on.



Giancarlo Di Zazzo
Managing Director and National Structuring Leader,
Sponsor Finance, BMO

An experienced finance professional with strong financial analysis and credit structuring skills built over a ~20 year career across advisory, merchant banking and senior lending. Broad experience, having spent time in roles accountable for deal origination, relationship management, deal structuring, portfolio management, and strategic oversight. A proven team leader with a demonstrated ability to drive revenue and develop talent.



J. Paul Haynes
President & COO, eSentire

J. Paul Haynes was drawn to eSentire with a vision to create a disruptive cybersecurity company. He successfully partnered with growth capital firms to invest in and scale eSentire to become the world's largest pure-play Managed Detection and Response (MDR) provider and market leader. J. Paul is a professional engineer with a 25-year entrepreneurial track record of success. His business acumen, in-depth understanding of technology, and strong leadership have made him a respected and reliable voice on the topic of cybersecurity in North America and Europe. J. Paul holds both a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Guelph.



Jacoline Loewen
Director, High Net Worth Relationships, Burgundy Asset
Management

Jacoline Loewen is a navigator in the world of investments and wealth management and she works with ultra-high-net-worth individuals and their families, family offices, and foundations. With extensive experience in wealth management, family offices and private equity, Jacoline has the expertise to work with successful achievers as they exit their active business and move to wealth management.

Jacoline draws from a broad experience and range of disciplines and practices, blending systems thinking with traditional consulting frameworks, to help families navigate the complexities of wealth and family dynamics. In addition to her wealth management work, Jacoline is also an accomplished writer, with three published best-seller books about private equity and investing for business founders and owners. She is an investor, board director, and philanthropist.

With Jacoline's extensive network, she draws on her lessons from working with entrepreneurs and their wealth management strategies. As well as being an ICD.D Board Director, she has experience investing in private equity for a family office.



Jeff Rosenthal
Managing Partner and Co-Founder,
Imperial Capital Group Ltd.

Jeff Rosenthal is a Managing Partner and co-Founder at Imperial Capital as well as at AltEx Capital. Having founded Imperial Capital in 1989, Jeff has 35 years of experience in private equity, has led numerous investments at Imperial Capital, and oversees the strategic direction and operations of the firm along with investor relations. Jeff has been responsible for the formation and fundraising of Imperial Capital Funds I through VIII, as well as AltEx Fund I. Jeff graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A. in Commerce and Economics. He also holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of several Imperial Capital portfolio companies.



Jeffrey McCain
Founder, Woodward Capital

Jeff is the President and Founder of Woodward Capital. Prior to founding Woodward Capital, Jeff worked in the New York office of Goldman Sachs in their M&A Group. In this role, Jeff focused on executing M&A, financing, and leveraged buyout transactions across various industries. Before joining Goldman Sachs, Jeff worked at Atlas Advisors, a lower-middle-market investment bank based in New York. Jeff has overseen dozens of capital raise, financing, strategic advisory and M&A transactions representing over \$10Bn in enterprise value.



Joseph Lo
Partner, Sagard Private Equity

Joseph Lo is a Partner at Sagard and a member of the Sagard Private Equity Canada (SPEC). He is responsible for originating, structuring, investing and portfolio management. He is a member of the Sagard Private Equity Canada investment committee and leads SPEC's Toronto office.



Joshua Share
Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development,
George Weston Limited

Joshua Share is the VP of Strategy and Corporate Development at George Weston Limited, responsible for M&A across George Weston Limited, including Loblaw, Shoppers Drug Mart and Choice Properties. He has over 15 years of experience in private equity and corporate development. Joshua holds a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University. He is also a CFA and CPA.



Jake Bullen
Partner in the Business Law Group at Cassels Brock &
Blackwell LLP

Jake Bullen is a partner in the Business Law Group at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP where he serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Private Equity Group. Jake's practice focuses on M&A, financings, corporate reorganizations, and complex commercial agreements, with a significant cross-border component. Jake also provides strategic advice on matters such as multi-jurisdictional structuring and corporate governance. His clients include PE sponsors, family offices, investment banks, and corporate leaders in retail, consumer goods, food & beverage, manufacturing & distribution, financial services, Tech, FinTech, AI, waste management, real estate, sports, entertainment, and cleantech/renewable energy.



John Antonecchia
Vice President - M&A and Risk Management Practice,
BFL Canada

Joined BFL CANADA in 2014 after 9 years with Marsh working predominantly with large multinational companies headquartered in Canada. Established BFL's M&A Practice in late 2014 with the original goal to grow the use of R&W Insurance in Canada and service [underserved] mid-market transactions in Canada. In 2015, John established BFL's original Cyber Insurance Practice, although given the growth of BFL's M&A Practice, focused efforts towards supporting the deal community. Transaction experience and reputation has allowed BFL's M&A Practice to grow to the largest in Canada servicing the entire Canadian M&A market including large institutional investors and Pension Plans, Strategic Acquirers, Private Equity Funds, Family Offices, Search Funds, and Independent Sponsors .



John Windover

Senior Partner, Bain & Company's Private Equity Practice

John is a Senior Partner and Director in Bain & Company's Private Equity Practice. He has over 25 years of experience at Bain working across a wide range of industries from Bain's San Francisco, Chicago and now Toronto offices. John has assessed hundreds of assets in diligence and has worked with the management teams of numerous Private Equity owned companies to help them define value creation plans. He has also helped investment funds define their investment strategies on where to focus and how to win. John advises global investors and clients on due diligence, corporate and business unit growth strategy, salesforce effectiveness, and operational and organizational improvements. John holds a Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He also holds a B.Sc. from Queen's University in Engineering where he received the Gold Medal for highest standing across all Engineering programs.



Kristine Robinson

Director, Secondaries Advisory, PJT Partners

Kristine Robinson is a Director on the Private Capital Solutions team at PJT Park Hill and founder of Women in Private Capital Canada ("WPCC"). Prior to PJT, Kristine was an Investor Relations Manager at Collier Capital, focusing on secondaries fundraising. Before Collier, Kristine spent the majority of her career at Lazard, where she sat on both the Industrials M&A and Private Capital Advisory teams, ultimately specializing in secondary market transactions. Kristine holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University and a Masters of Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University.



Lisa Melchoir

Founder & Managing Partner, VERTU Capital

Lisa Melchoir is the Founder and Managing Partner of Vertu Capital, a private equity firm focused on Canadian technology businesses. With over 25 years of experience in private equity, Lisa has invested \$1.5B in over 30 companies across North America and Europe and through multiple economic cycles. In 2023, Vertu Partners Fund I became Canada's first female-founded private equity fund, supporting the growth of the Canadian technology ecosystem. Vertu has acquired stakes in global technology businesses, including Firmex, Dejero, PathFactory, ActiveState and LumiQ.



Mistine Lauzon

Managing Director, Private Capital Global Investment Banking CIBC Capital Markets

Mistine Lauzon is a Managing Director of CIBC Capital Markets' Private Capital investment banking practice. Ms. Lauzon has over 20 years of investment banking experience, including 15 years with a leading global investment bank. During this time, she developed significant experience advising on numerous M&A and financing assignments for corporations in both Canada and the U.S. Ms. Lauzon has advised companies in the consumer, technology, telecom, industrial, metals and mining, agriculture and financial institutions sectors. Before her career in investment banking, Ms. Lauzon worked at another financial institution as a member of the Financial Stability Assessment Division. Ms. Lauzon holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours, 1st Class) from Queen's University and a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Mitch Green

Managing Director, Clairvest

Mitch joined Clairvest in 2002 and is now a senior member of the investment team responsible for deal origination, execution and portfolio management. Mitch leads Clairvest's domain efforts in technology services and insurance.

He currently sits on the board of Acera Insurance, F12.net and Meriplex Communications. Mitch holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.



Mustafa Humayun

Partner, Sagard and Portfolio Manager of Sagard Credit

Mustafa Humayun has served as Partner at Sagard and as Portfolio Manager of Sagard Credit since 2016. Mustafa is responsible for overseeing the private credit business to invest in non-sponsored credit opportunities in the North American middle market. Alongside Adam Vigna, the firm's Chief Investment Officer, he leads the Sagard Credit team in their management of the investment process, including origination, due diligence, execution, and portfolio management. Within the investment portfolio, he serves as a board observer at Founders Advantage Capital. Mustafa is a member of the Sagard Credit investment committee and is based in Toronto, Canada. He has known Adam Vigna for over a decade and has worked with him across three different organizations.



Myron Mallia-Dare
Partner, Miller Thomson LLP

Myron Mallia-Dare is a Partner at Miller Thomson LLP and a leader within the firm's Private Equity and Venture Capital groups. He specializes in complex domestic and cross-border transactions, guiding private equity funds, venture capital firms, and high-growth companies through fund investments, leveraged buyouts, co-investments, and exits.

Myron advises clients on all stages of the investment cycle, from seed financing to going public, offering deep expertise in navigating legal challenges across sectors like technology, media, and telecommunications. Myron is a thought leader on ESG in private equity and M&A transactions and regularly speaks on industry trends.



Ruby Williams
Partner, Deloitte

Ruby Williams is a partner and the Canadian national leader of the transaction, diligence, execution and reporting practice of Deloitte. Ruby has close to 25 years' experience advising Canadian and Global companies on acquisitions and divestitures to optimize their business models and growth strategy. Ruby has extensive experience in assisting clients in both buy-side and sell-side M&A cycle, including pricing analysis and valuation, due diligence reviews, carve-out and synergy analysis, deal structuring, negotiation, and related advisory services. She has led hundreds of transactions over the years in Canada, US and globally and assisted many clients executing M&A strategies in the technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and industrials sectors.



Saga Williams
Senior Advisor, First Nations Major Project Coalition

Saga Williams, LL.B. is the principal and owner of AS Williams Consulting, is an Advisor to the First Nations Major Projects Coalition on Critical Mineral Development and supports a number of exploration and mining companies in their Indigenous Relations outreach. She is a band member and resident of Curve Lake First Nation. Through her maternal relations, she is also a member of the Namekosing Anishinabeg community of Lac Seul First Nation, located in the Treaty #3 area. After graduating with an Indigenous Studies (Hons.) degree from Trent University and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, Saga was called to the Ontario Bar in 2000.



Scott Patles-Richardson
Founder & Senior Advisor, Indigenous Financial Solutions

Scott is a First Nation executive business leader committed to creating opportunities focused on capacity building and economic development of Indigenous communities. Over the course of his extensive career, Scott has brokered many multi-million-dollar settlements, agreements, and contracts on behalf of Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada. He has also assisted Indigenous communities and investors in extensive M&A activities resulting in significant equity and revenue growth.



Sean Cohan
President, Bell Media

Appointed President of Bell Media, Canada's premier media company, in 2023, Cohan is responsible for Bell Media's globally unique portfolio of video, audio, digital, and out-of-home advertising assets, brands, and content. These include Canada's #1 broadcast network (CTV), its leading sports properties (TSN & RDS), #1 national and local news (CTV News), the largest-Canadian-owned video streaming service (Crave), industry-leading out-of-home advertising player (Astral) and audio platforms (iHeart Radio).



Seyed Hejazi
Partner, MNP Digital Services

Seyed is a member of MNP's Digital Services team in Toronto. With nearly two decades of cybersecurity and information technology experience, Seyed helps clients with their cybersecurity and privacy risks, governance models, frameworks, and technologies. He works closely with a wide range of organizations to transform their cybersecurity practices by leveraging people, processes, and technologies to protect organizational confidentiality, preserve integrity, and promote the availability of information and information technology assets. He is a specialist in security operations, cyber threat intelligence, incident handling, digital forensics, and cybersecurity-related regulations.



Simon Houpt
Business Reporter, The Globe and Mail

Simon Houpt is a reporter and columnist, covering sports media and the business of sports for The Globe and Mail. He has served as The Globe's New York arts correspondent, an advertising and marketing reporter, media columnist, arts reporter and feature writer. He is the author of Museum of the Missing: A History of Art Theft.



Stacey Mouadeb
Director Private Equity, Nicola Wealth

Stacey is a Director of the Nicola Private Debt Fund, having joined the Toronto office in July 2022 with more than 15 years of U.S. and Canadian leveraged finance experience. Nicola Private Debt manages a diversified portfolio with more than \$1.5 billion in AUM today, primarily focused on direct lending to Canadian and U.S. middle-market businesses. Prior to joining Nicola Wealth, Stacey was Director, Debt Capital Markets at Scotiabank in Toronto, where she focused on high yield bond origination for Canadian corporate clients. Additionally, Stacey brings ten years of U.S.-based leveraged finance experience across multiple lending platforms, including Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, and Mizuho Bank, where she was involved in the origination, structuring, credit underwriting and marketing of large-cap LBOs, leveraged loans and high yield bonds.



Steve Faraone
Managing Partner, Peloton Capital Management

Steve is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner at PCM. He co-leads the operations of the firm with Mike Murray and is a member of the firm's Investment Committee. Steve currently sits on the boards of 123Dentist, P3 Veterinary Partners, Glass Lewis, Victoria Park Medispa and Unison Risk Advisors.

Prior to co-founding PCM, Steve was a Managing Director at the Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan where he led the firm's Consumer & Healthcare team within Teachers' Private Capital. During his 16-year tenure at OTPP, Steve played lead roles on a number of notable investments, including: Alliance Laundry Systems, Baybridge Senior Housing, BroadStreet Partners, Canada Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company, Flynn Restaurant Group, GCAN Insurance Company, Heartland Dental, INC Research, NXT Capital, Plano Synergy Holdings and Shearer's Snacks.



Stephanie Mooney
VP Recognition Fund - Trivest Partners

Stephanie joined Trivest in 2020 and is responsible for originating and analyzing acquisition opportunities. Based in Toronto, she manages intermediary relationships with a focus on the Trivest Recognition Fund across the US and Canada. Prior to Trivest, Stephanie was a Director with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) responsible for originating and managing lending relationships with privately held middle market companies while leading a team of account managers. Stephanie holds an Honours Bachelor of Commerce Degree from McMaster University. She is a member of the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Toronto Chapter and actively participates in CVCA, Exponent Women, and various other networking groups. She is involved with a number of charitable organizations including Gilda's Club Greater Toronto where she's been a Board Member since 2019.



Teresa Resch
President WNBA Toronto, Kilmer Sports Group

Teresa Resch is the inaugural President of the WNBA Toronto franchise, which will begin play in 2026 season. Resch has been a leader in basketball development at the global scale for nearly 20 years. For 11 seasons she was a senior leader at the Toronto Raptors, bringing basketball to the forefront of Canadian sport. From 2013-24 she played an instrumental role in numerous projects including the design and construction of Raptor's OVO Athletic Centre, launching the Raptors 905 - Toronto's NBA G-League affiliate and transitioning the Raptors to Tampa for 2020-21 season.



Thomas Benjoe
Partner, Flowing Rover Capital

Thomas Benjoe is an Indigenous Business Leader and Entrepreneur from Muscowpetung First Nation. He is currently a partner at OneHoop, an Indigenous Advisory firm based in Saskatchewan and a Partner & CEO of Flowing River Capital, an Indigenous Private Equity Firm. Through his leadership, he has grown several multi-million dollar investments across multiple sectors using his unique business models and strategy. Those investments were often made with limited resources and capital and in one such investment he started, scaled and sold Saskatchewan's first Indigenous tech company for an 1,150% return. Thomas also leads several strategies in Indigenous Engagement, Procurement, Indigenous HR, and Investments. Through the strategies he has built he has helped to unlock many new opportunities for Indigenous business to thrive and Indigenous talent to be built sustainably.



Thomas Choi
Managing Director, AltEx

Thomas is Managing Director and leads our first AltEx Capital fund. Thomas comes to AltEx most recently from Scotiabank, where he was a Director. He has over 15 years of experience in capital markets and investing, with a particular focus on private equity investments.



Yong Kwon
Managing Director, Technology Investment Banking -
Raymond James

Yong Kwon joined Raymond James in 2021 and has over 20 years of experience in investment banking and private equity, with firms including INFOR Financial, Novacap, Barclays and RBC. Yong earned an MBA from the Rotman School of Management and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto.