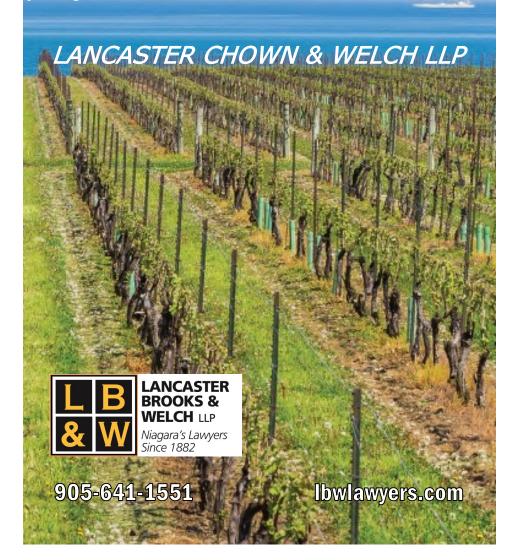




November 2, 2021 8:00am—12:00pm | Virtual

#NES2021 gncc.ca/nes Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP has proudly served Niagara's business community for over 139 years. Next year marks 140 years and the start of a new Firm.

We are delighted to announce that Chown Cairns LLP are joining Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP, to become:





PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada

It is with great pleasure that I wish you all best for attending the Niagara Economic Summit 2021, hosted by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC).

The GNCC is a non-profit, non-partisan, membership-driven organization comprised of 1,500 business enterprises, civic organizations, educational institutions and individuals, and is the second largest Chamber of Commerce of Ontario, dedicated to helping the Niagara region be at its economic and social best.



Niagara Economic Summit 2021 is an opportunity to draw on visionary experts and leaders from around the country and region, to assess and debate where we are right now, where we can go from here, and how we can get there. Niagara Economic Summit 2021 is a shining example of the great work the GNCC conducts, inviting hundreds of business and not-for-profit leaders, elected officials, and senior government staff to debate and transform conversations into actions. Indeed, the GNCC is the voice of business, helping businesses and organizations succeed in order to ensure the long-term economic and social prosperity of the Niagara region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made planning and hosting events such as Niagara Economic Summit 2021 especially difficult, and I would like to thank the GNCC for making this virtual event possible.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable virtual Summit!

Ottawa 2021 Niagara Economic Summit 2021: Shaping Niagara

Powered by

NAGARA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Partners







Royal Bank

Sponsors



Deloitte.

























AGENDA

8:00 am Welcome & Progress Report

from the GNCC

8:15 am Address from Niagara Region

8:25 am Welcome from Brock University

Welcome from Niagara College

Welcome from Doug Ford,

Premier of Ontario

8:35 am **Power Talk with**

Pierre Cléroux, BDC

8:50 am Panel Discussion 1:

Niagara's Competitiveness

Pierre Cléroux George Spezza Michael Sutherland

Moderator: Debbie Zimmerman

9:45 am Break

9:50 am Welcome from

Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy

Welcome from Minister Lisa MacLeod

10:00 am **Panel Discussion 2:**

The Long Game

Hon. Perrin Beatty Matthias Oppenlaender

Jay Wright

Moderator: Robin Garrett

10:50 am Break

10:55 am Welcome from Minister Steve Clark

11:10 am Panel Discussion 3:

Our Ethical Future

Dr. Kim de Laat Rafiq Dhanji Mia Huntington Dr. Mike Moffatt Sean Vanderklis

Moderator: Emily Kovacs

11:55 am Closing Remarks

12:00 pm End of the Niagara Economic Summit

Please note, times are approximate and subject to change. Speaker lineup subject to change.





Shaping Niagara



EMCEE & UPDATE FROM THE GNCC

Mishka Balsom ♥ @MishkaBalsom CEO, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce

Mishka Balsom is the CEO of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, responsible for developing and implementing initiatives that are designed to strengthen the business climate in Niagara and support the economic prosperity of the region. Mishka is actively involved with a high number of community organizations within Niagara, other municipalities across Ontario and internationally, including the Buffalo-Niagara Partnership and many more. In addition, she currently sits on the Niagara College Board of Governors, Brock U Goodman School Advisory Council and is Vice Chair to the Chamber Executives of Ontario.

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NIAGARA REGION

Jim Bradley **y** @NiagaraRegion Regional Chair, Niagara Region

Jim Bradley was elected as Niagara Regional Chair in 2018. Previously, Chair Bradley served as a St. Catharines city councillor from 1970 to 1977 and a member of provincial parliament for St. Catharines from 1977 to 2018. During this time, he held roles as a provincial Minister of Environment; Transportation; Municipal Affairs and Housing; Tourism and Recreation; Community Safety and Correctional Services; and Seniors. Before entering politics, Chair Bradley was a teacher with the Lincoln County Board of Education. He has contributed to the Niagara community as a hockey and baseball coach, manager and referee; member of Grantham Optimist Club; and as an active supporter of the Rankin Run. Gillian's Place, Start Me Up Niagara, Community Care. Bethlehem Place and other volunteer organizations.

Building the Foundation of a Resilient Future Through Business-Led Recovery: Competitiveness, the Long Game, and Our Ethical Future

WELCOME FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Dr. Lynn Wells **y** @BrockUniversity Interim President, Brock University

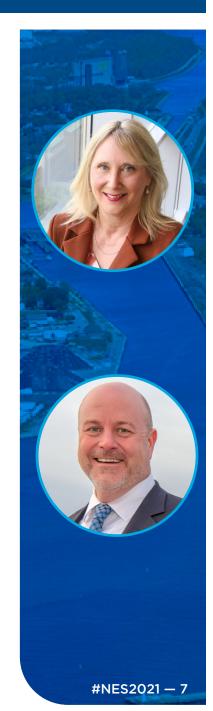
Dr. Lynn Wells is a Canadian scholar, teacher and university leader, with over fifteen years of experience in senior academic leadership positions.

Prior to being appointed as Provost and Vice-President Academic at Brock in July 2020, she served as Associate Vice-President, Students and Teaching at MacEwan University in Edmonton and held a number of senior positions at the University of Regina, including Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Associate Vice-President, Academic. For seven years, Dr. Wells supported the work of national reconciliation with Indigenous people through her service as Vice-President, Academic and Special Advisor to the President at First Nations University of Canada.

Sean Kennedy **y** @niagaracollege President, Niagara College

Appointed Niagara College's sixth president in January, 2020, Sean has been a member of the College's senior leadership team since 2006, when he joined as Vice President of Student and External Relations, a role in which he oversaw the development of the College's new branding and community engagement strategies and was responsible for Enrolment & Registration, Student Services, Alumni Services, Athletics, Marketing and Recruitment, and International. In addition, he was the CEO of the Niagara College Foundation, responsible for leading the College's fundraising efforts.

Prior to joining Niagara College, Sean was dean of students, and then associate vice president, Student Services and International Education at Red Deer College in Alberta.



Niagara's Competitiveness



Pierre Cléroux ♥ @PierreCleroux Vice-President, Research and Chief Economist, BDC

Pierre Cléroux was appointed Vice President, Research and Chief Economist at BDC in 2012. Pierre leads a team of experts who analyze economic data to identify business and sector trends impacting Canadian entrepreneurs. A seasoned speaker, he regularly travels across the country to help business owners understand the risks and opportunities presented by the economic environment.

Over his 25-year career as an economist, he has held several influential positions that had a direct impact on entrepreneurs in Canada and abroad. Before joining BDC, Pierre worked for the Government of Saudi Arabia as Vice President, Business Analysis in the National Industry Clusters Development Program. He was also a strategic advisor for Montreal International, where he was responsible for attracting foreign investment from India and the Middle East, and developing international relationships and partnerships.

George Spezza **y** @georgespezza Director, Economic Development, Niagara Region

George Spezza is a community builder with over three decades of experience in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. As Director of Economic Development for Niagara Region, George leads and unites efforts across 12 municipalities to build a strong and sustainable regional economy. Prior to his current role, George held a number of positions in Toronto focused on the growth of Canada's largest city. As a Senior Advisor for the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project, George strengthened business and stakeholder relationships critical to this transformative transit initiative

George has received professional designations from the Economic Developers Council of Canada and the International Economic Developers Council along with completing the Canada School of Public Service's Executive Leadership Program.

Everything has changed, and Niagara's traditional picture of itself may no longer hold true. Our panel of local, provincial and federal experts will convene to discuss Niagara's place in the bigger picture and how Niagara can position itself to move forward in the 2020s.

Michael Sutherland **y** @HATCHglobal Director, Urban Solutions, Hatch

Michael leads Hatch's Urban Solutions practice in Canada, collaborating with Urban Solutions teams in the USA, UK, South Africa, and other Hatch teams globally. Michael is focused on advancing the best possible outcomes for better cities, transportation, and infrastructure through investment analysis excellence, applying knowledge of how decisions and projects happen, and developing, leading, and adapting teams and talent for solutions.

In the past, Michael led the planning, project development work, and funding approvals for GO Regional Express Rail, Metrolinx's flagship capital program. He also led the initiation and refinement of business case practice and standards, which contributed to significant improvement in project evaluation and development within Metrolinx and across Ontario.

Debbie Zimmerman **y** @dzimmermangrap1 CEO, Grape Growers of Ontario

Debbie Zimmerman serves as Chief Executive Officer of Grape Growers of Ontario. Debbie was actively involved in local politics for 36 years. Her political career began in 1978 as a local alderman for the Town of Grimsby, and in 1989 was elected to Regional Council. In 1997 Debbie was elected as Regional Chair for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, a position that she served for two terms. Debbie is the past Chair of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for the Province of Ontario (2004-2010), and was assigned by the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, to the 2015/16 Provincial Review Panel for Ontario's Land Use Plans.

Along with sitting on the 2022 Canada Games Host Society Board, Debbie currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Buffalo/Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority and McNally House. Most recently, Debbie was a member of the YMCA Board of Directors and a Co-Chair of the Pathstone "Mending Minds" fundraising campaign.



Message from the Premier of Ontario





The Honourable Doug Ford

Grant @fordnation

Doug Ford is the Premier of Ontario. He was also elected as the MPP for Etobicoke-North in 2018. Previously, Doug Ford served as Toronto city councillor from 2010-2014, and was vice-chair of the Budget Committee, where he delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. While on city council, Ford served on the board of Build Toronto, and was a director of the Canadian National Exhibition. He also served on the Civic Appointments Committee and the Government Management Committee at Council

A dedicated community leader, successful businessman with Deco Labels and passionate advocate for the people, Doug's commitment to public service runs in the family. Three generations of Fords have served the people of Ontario in elected office.

Doug is a life-long resident of the community of Etobicoke, and lives there with his wife Karla and four daughters. His commitment to public service includes over 20 years of dedicated work with the Toronto West Rotary Club and serving as a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Messages from our Ministers: The Minister of Finance of Ontario



Peter Bethlenfalvy is currently serving as the Minister of Finance. He was elected as MPP for Pickering—Uxbridge in 2018. Minister Bethlenfalvy is responsible for ensuring Ontario's long-term fiscal sustainability and providing the fiscal firepower needed to protect the health and well-being of Ontarians in the face of COVID-19.

As Minister of Finance, he is focused on providing the supports Ontario families, workers, and businesses need through the pandemic. As the province charts its long-term recovery, he is working to ensure our health care system, communities and economy are positioned to emerge stronger than ever before.

Minister Bethlenfalvy led the creation of Ontario's Office of the Comptroller General - the first of its kind in any Canadian province - and is Chair of the Audit and Accountability Committee and the Future State Modernization Committee. He also served as the Minister Responsible for Digital and Data Transformation, and led the government's modernization initiatives.





The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario





The Honourable Steve Clark

■ ②SteveClarkPC

Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing of Ontario

Steve Clark was first elected MPP for Leeds-Grenville in a March, 4, 2010, by-election. It was a landslide victory, with MPP Clark winning 66 percent of the vote.

He was subsequently re-elected in the October 6, 2011 provincial election and won re-election for a third term in office in the June 12, 2014 provincial election. Most recently, on June 7, 2018, Steve was re-elected as MPP for the newly named riding of Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

Steve gained attention across Canada in 1982 when, at the age of 22 and just out of university, he was elected Mayor of the City of Brockville. This gained him the title of Youngest Mayor of Canada and a notation in the Who's Who of Canada. Steve served three terms as mayor and, during his tenure, was also the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Steve also worked in the media and Internet development with the Brockville Recorder and Times newspaper and RipNet.

The Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries of Ontario



The Honourable Lisa MacLeod y @MacLeodLisa

Lisa MacLeod was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in a 2006 by-election as the youngest MPP in that parliament and the youngest conservative woman to be elected in Ontario – either federally or provincially. She represented the Nepean-Carleton riding (now Nepean) winning elections in 2007, 2011, and 2014, and has continued to represent the constituents of Nepean since the boundaries were changed in the 2018 provincial election.

Lisa has served as the Vice Chair of the Quebec-Ontario Parliamentary Friendship Committee, Ontario's steering committee member on the Canadian Parliamentary Women's Association and Vice Chair of the Government Agencies Committee and Legislative Assembly Committees. She has also served as Official Opposition Energy Critic, Education Critic, Revenue and Accountability Critic, Government and Consumer Affairs critic and Critic for Children and Youth.

Lisa's legislative success includes Rowan's Law, Canada's first concussion legislation, Lebanese Heritage Month and Trans Remembrance Month.



The Long Game



The Honourable Perrin Beatty @PerrinBeatty President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Perrin Beatty is the president and CEO of the 200,000-member Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canada's largest and most representative national business association. Perrin is the principal spokesperson advocating the policy positions of the chamber's members to the federal government, international organizations, the media and the general public. Prior to joining the Canadian Chamber in August 2007, Perrin was the president and chief executive officer of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters.

A descendant of one of Canada's most prominent manufacturing families, Perrin grew up in Fergus, Ontario and graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1971. In 1972, he was elected to the House of Commons as a Progressive Conservative, and in 1979 he was appointed Minister of State (Treasury Board) in the government of Joe Clark. He held six additional portfolios in subsequent Progressive Conservative governments, including National Revenue in 1984, Solicitor General in 1985, National Defence in 1986, Health and Welfare in 1989, Communications in 1991, and Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1993.

Robin Garrett @RobinTGarrett Independent Consultant and Chair, Niagara District Airport

Robin Garrett is an independent consultant, Chair of the Niagara District Airport and former CEO of the Tourism Partnership of Niagara. An experienced tourism professional and community builder, Robin has served on diverse community boards boards and is an advocate for sustainable tourism.

Robin has expertise in developing strategic plans and performance measures, award-winning marketing programs and brand positioning, as well as business development and partnership building. In addition, she has extensive experience as media spokesperson, both within Canada and internationally.

There are many new opportunities that will appear this decade, and also new challenges. There are also existing barriers that will take a long time to fix. What opportunities and problems does Niagara face, and how do we start addressing them?

Matthias Oppenlaender @MatOppenlaender Chair, Board of Directors, Grape Growers of Ontario, and General Manager, Huebel Grapes Estates

Matthias was born in Germany where he studied agriculture and viticulture before emigrating to Canada in 1984. Matthias, his wife Monica and their five children live in Niagara-on-the-Lake where they farm over 400 acres of vineyards, and own Country Tyme Vineyards and Huebel Grape Estates.

Matthias was selected as Grape King by his fellow grape growers in 2006 as an ambassador to represent the industry at events across the country. The following year Matthias was elected to the Grape Growers of Ontario's Growers' Committee and to the Board of Directors. In 2009 Matthias became Vice Chair of the Board, a position he held until being elected Chair in 2016.

Jay Wright **y** @arterra_wines President & CEO, Arterra Wines Canada

Jay Wright is the President of Arterra Wines Canada. He oversees the domestic and international sales, marketing and operations of Canada's leading wine company. Jay joined the company in 2001 as president of Vincor International Inc. and became its CEO in 2006. From 2009 and onwards, he held various executive roles at Constellation Brands Inc. such as COO and EVP & president of Global Wine & Spirits where he was instrumental in leading the business on a premiumization growth strategy and the acquisitions of luxury brands Ruffino, Mark West, Casa Noble Tequila and Meiomi. In 2016, Jay became the president and CEO of Constellation Brands Canada, a privately held company owned by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, which you now know as Arterra Wines Canada.

Jay, a native of Montreal, began his career in marketing at Procter & Gamble in Toronto. He was later a director of innovation at Molson Breweries and spent 10 years at Nabisco. Before joining Vincor, Jay was vice president and general manager at Borden Foods USA. Jay earned a bachelor of commerce degree with honours from Queen's University.



Our Ethical Future



Dr. Kim de Laat ♥ @KimdeLaat Postdoctoral Fellow, Brock University

Kim is a Mitacs postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology at Brock University, and at The Vanier Institute of the Family. Kim received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto. Specializing in qualitative research methods, she has extensive experience in research design, data collection, and analyzing and synthesizing social scientific data in order to produce evidence-based insights. Her research has been published in Feminist Formations, Journal of Gender Studies, Poetics, Sociological Forum, and Work and Occupations.

Kim researches the intersection of the sociologies of work and culture and how cultural mechanisms shape inequality and mediate uncertainty in organizational and mass media contexts. She has also examined how the cultural schemas underlying mass media representations serve to reproduce intersectional inequalities along lines of parental status, gender, race, and age.

Rafiq Dhanji @RafiqDhanji Executive Director, Sustainability Leadership

Rafiq is the Executive Director of Sustainability Leadership, and works with businesses across diverse industries to provide strategic insight, planning and support on becoming truly sustainable businesses. He has over a decade of project and relationship management experience and a deep passion for sustainability, which he seamlessly integrates into all aspects of business and life. Rafiq is a catalyst for positive change and inspires a lasting impact in communities for generations to come.

Rafiq has also given a TEDx Talk on how businesses can incorporate sustainability into their operations without increasing costs. He lives by the philosophy that one should leave their environment in a better condition than when they found it.

Consumers, workers, and businesses are more concerned with ethics than ever before. How does the appetite for gender equality, LGBTQ rights, truth and reconciliation, living wages, climate change mitigation, diversity and inclusion impact the business world?

Mia Huntington is Executive Vice-President, Digital and Associations at Elavon Canada, an international company consistently rated one of the world's most ethical. With more than 20 years of financial services experience and a background in technology solutions, Mia has a reputation for driving results and successfully executing strategy. She leads a high-performance team charged with propelling the vision and implementation of Elavon's digital strategy, accelerating alignment to a modern buyer's experience. Mia is passionate about the success of the business customers Elavon enables, and the role that integrated partners play in the payments ecosystem.

Mia is a member of U.S. Bank Americas Holdings Board and is also on the Women in Payments Advisory Board.

Emily Kovacs ♥ @niagarafolkarts Executive Director/CEO, Niagara Folk Arts Multucultural Centre

Emily Kovacs is CEO of the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, an advocate for newcomers, and a champion for inclusion. She earned a degree in Social Psychology from Brock University and has extensive experience with inter-agency collaboration, community development and effective project management. Emily is trilingual, fluent in Hungarian, Romanian and English.

Prior to joining the Niagara Folk Arks Multicultural Centre, Emily worked for the City of Toronto and supported 22 large-scale shelter

infrastructure development projects from beginning to end. She has also worked as a heritage language teacher and holds a cultural interpreter diploma.



Our Ethical Future



Dr. Mike Moffatt is the Senior Director of Policy and Innovation at the Smart Prosperity Institute, a Professor of Business, Economics and Public Policy at the Ivey Business School, and a former economic advisor to Justin Trudeau. In 2017, Mike was the Chief Innovation Fellow for the Government of Canada, advising Deputy Ministers on innovation policy and emerging trends, and represented Canada at G7, OECD and Organization of American States meetings.

Mike has worked with politicians and policy markers of all political stripes in several countries to craft more effective public policy. As an outside advisor, Mike played an advisory role on a number of policies, including the creation of the Canada Child Benefit as well as policy costing and economic forecasting work for the 2015 Liberal platform.

Sean Vanderklis ♥ @SeanVanderklis Host, Superior Morning Show, CBC Radio One

Sean Vanderklis is a journalist who co-founded the One Dish, One Mic podcast and is the current host of CBC Radio One's Superior Morning show. For his work with One Dish, One Mic, Sean was the recipient of the 2020 CJF-CBC Indigenous Journalism Fellowships.

Sean has a passion and desire to create change, and serves as the Vice-President of the Niagara Regional Native Centre Board of Directors and on the St. Catharines Equity and Inclusion committee. He is also a member of the National Advisory Committee to the Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada, now known as The National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Indigenous flagship radio program, *Unreserved*.

When Sean is not working, he can also be seen on the Pow Wow trail. Sean is a Grass Dancer and frequently participates in Pow Wows province-wide. In the off-season, Sean often presents with two educational, cultural groups; Ohnia:kara and White Pine Dancers.





21ST ANNUAL 2021 WIBA

WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS

Co-Presented by





Royal Bank

Women in Business Awards **Lifetime Achievement Award**2021 Recipient:

CAROLYNE WATTS



Celebrate with us as we recognize all women in business in Niagara

NOVEMBER 19, 2021 • 11AM — 2PM MARRIOTT ON THE FALLS

































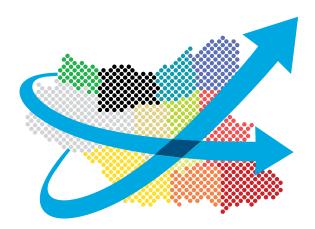












Niagara Economic Summit 2021 Shaping Niagara

For more information, resources, and videos, please visit

gncc.ca/nes