



**Partners in
Project Green**

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Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Toronto Pearson

2025 ANNUAL FORUM

**Stories that Matter:
Building Buy-in for a
Sustainable Future**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



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TIME	AGENDA	
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION <i>Light breakfast, coffee/tea available</i>	
8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.	EXHIBITOR TABLES	
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Morning Keynote: Neil Ever Osborne, National Geographic Explorer and Smithsonian Magazine contributor, Assistant Professor at Trent University	
10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	BREAK	
10:10 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Panel #1 - <i>From Vision to Action: Engaging Internal Stakeholders in Sustainability</i>	
10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	BREAK	
11:05 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Panel #2 - <i>Sustainability That Resonates: Engaging External Audiences with Authentic Narratives</i>	
11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	BUFFET LUNCH	
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Afternoon Welcome: Jonathan Hack, Dean of Centennial Innovates: Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Centennial College	
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Group A: Tour with Seán Kinsella, Director of The Eighth Fire <i>Centennial A-Block</i>	Group B: Interactive Workshop with Yas Hassen, Associate Director of Tamarack Institute <i>Developing a Collaborative Impact Story</i>
2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.	SWITCH GROUPS	
2:25 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	Group A: Interactive Workshop with Yas Hassen, Associate Director of Tamarack Institute <i>Developing a Collaborative Impact Story</i>	Group B: Tour with with Seán Kinsella, Director of The Eighth Fire <i>Centennial A-Block</i>
3:25 p.m. – 3:35p.m.	BREAK <i>Coffee/tea and refreshments available</i>	
3:35 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Fireside Chat with Jenn Harper, Founder and CEO, Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics	
4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS	
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	EVENING NETWORKING	

SPEAKERS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Jennifer Taves (she/her)

Senior Manager, Sustainable Communities, Toronto and Region
Conservation Authority

Jennifer has 15 years of experience working with broad stakeholder groups to achieve common goals. She brings her expertise in project management, governance, strategy development and communications to advance environmental sustainability and economic prosperity in the GTA.

OPENING REMARKS



Michelle Brown (she/her)

Managing Director, Head of BGO Properties

As the Managing Director, Head of BGO Properties, Michelle oversees property management and leasing across all BGO Properties asset types throughout Canada. With over 23 years at BGO and prior experience at firms like TrizecHahn and Nexacor, she brings deep expertise in property management. Michelle is a committed leader in equity and sustainability, serving as a key member of the EDI Executive Council, Global Lead of BGO Women's Network, and co-chair of Partners in Project Green. She holds an Honours BA from the University of Toronto and professional designations including LEED Green Associate, CPM, and RPA.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Neil Ever Osborne (he/him)

Canadian photojournalist, filmmaker, Assistant Professor at Trent University

Neil Ever Osborne is a storyteller and educator whose work explores the complex relationship between people and the planet, focusing on human resilience and nature's enduring strength. A National Geographic Explorer and Smithsonian Magazine contributor, Neil is also an Assistant Professor at Trent University's School of the Environment and Founder of the environmental communications agency, Evermaven. He holds long-standing Fellowships with the International League of Conservation Photographers, The Explorer's Club, and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

AFTERNOON WELCOME



Jonathan Hack (he/him)

Dean of Centennial Innovates: Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Centennial College

Jonathan is the Dean of Centennial Innovates: Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Centennial College, where he leads applied research in fields like aerospace, energy, and wearable tech, and fosters entrepreneurship in east Toronto. A professional engineer, he has served on the Board of the Professional Engineers Foundation for Education, is a past President and Board Chair of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, and currently sits on the Boards of the Canadian Society of Professional Engineers and the Yves Landry Foundation.



FIRESIDE CHAT



Jenn Harper (she/her)

Founder & CEO, Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics

Jenn Harper is the founder and CEO of Cheekbone Beauty, a B Corp Certified brand celebrated for its sustainability, inclusion, and support for Indigenous communities. Since 2015, she's grown the brand from a startup to a presence in Sephora Canada and 550+ JCPenney stores across the U.S. A recognized social entrepreneur and speaker, Jenn has raised over \$250,000 for women and youth initiatives and gained national attention on Dragon's Den. She's been named one of Entrepreneur's 100 Women of Influence and Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women, and holds an honorary doctorate from Brock University.



Darryl Gray (he/him)

Director, Education and Training, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Darryl is Director of Education and Training at TRCA, where he leads a multidisciplinary team advancing education, cultural heritage, and sustainability across the Greater Toronto Area. With over 25 years of experience, Darryl drives transformative partnerships that expand access to nature-based learning, support professional training in urban sustainability, and revitalize The Village at Black Creek. He also supports senior committees at TRCA and holds a BA from McMaster University and a Diploma in Municipal Administration.



MODERATORS



Andrea Carmona (she/her)

Senior Manager of Public Affairs, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Andrea is a public affairs professional committed to driving socio-economic progress and systemic change in Ontario and Canada. As Senior Manager of Public Affairs at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, she leads advocacy, communications, and marketing to shape policy and business competitiveness. Passionate about innovation, inclusion, and sustainability, Andrea uses storytelling and consensus-building to advance impactful ideas.



Wesley Gee (he/him)

Chief Sustainability Officer and Principal, Works Design

Wesley leads Works Design's sustainability practice, combining academic expertise with extensive professional experience. He advises on stakeholder engagement, materiality, performance measurement, social purpose, and ESG/sustainability reporting. Wesley helped develop the GRI guidelines and contributed to SASB sector working groups. He lectures in the Sustainability Diploma and MScSM programs at the University of Toronto. Previously, he was a senior sustainability consultant at Stantec and a senior advisor at CBSR. He holds a Master's in Sustainable Business from the University of Leeds



PANEL #1

– From Vision to Action: Engaging Internal Stakeholders in Sustainability



Brent Carey (he/him)

VP, Communications, Mattamy Asset Management

Brent is an award-winning communications executive with over 30 years of experience spanning internal communication, media relations, marketing, and reputation management. As the Vice President of Communications at Mattamy Asset Management, he leads the strategic communications across North American operations. Brent has held senior roles at KPMG, Deloitte, CIBC, TD, and Imperial Oil. An Accredited Business Communicator, he was named a Master Communicator by IABC Canada in 2024. He holds a double honours degree in Communications and English from York University.



Lisa Vanlint (she/her)

Manager, Environmental Sustainability, Energy & Sustainability, FM-PRO, University Health Network (UHN)

Lisa is the Manager of Environmental Sustainability in the Energy and Environment team within FM-PRO at UHN. Lisa started at UHN in 2011 as Energy Steward and previously coordinated the greening initiative at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health. With a background in communications and project management from University of Toronto and TMU, Lisa leads on employee engagement, behavior change and environmental compliance in varied areas of sustainability including energy conservation, waste reduction, toxics, transportation and procurement. Through her work, UHN has achieved Canada's Greenest Employer status from 2021 and onwards.



Nicole Arsenault (she/her)

Director, Office of Sustainability, York University

Nicole is a sustainability professional with over 25 years of experience at York University, where she currently serves as the Director in the Office of Sustainability. In her role, Nicole leads efforts to embed sustainability across the university's operations, teaching, research, and partnerships. She is particularly passionate about integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into institutional practices and promoting a whole-university approach to sustainability. She strongly believes in the role universities can play in shaping a more just and sustainable world.

PANEL #2

– Sustainability That Resonates: Engaging External Audiences with Authentic Narratives



Christien Parrott (she/her)

Director of Sustainability, Strategy and Implementation, Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee

Christien Parrott is the Director of Sustainability, Strategy and Implementation at Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee. Christien is a dynamic and passionate leader in sustainability, that has developed and continues to deliver the Mother Parkers corporate strategic environmental, social and governance (ESG) program. This is with a focus on climate action goals, enhancing the sustainability of Mother Parkers' supply chains, and strengthening the wellbeing of producers at origin. These initiatives will drive significant and lasting positive impacts to environmental, social and governance aspects of sustainability for Mother Parkers. Christien also serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), a multi-stakeholder membership association dedicated to advancing coffee sustainability.



Dolf DeJong (he/him)

Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo

Dolf DeJong is the CEO of Toronto Zoo, one of Canada's most respected wildlife conservation organizations. Since 2018, he has led transformative projects in conservation, research, and community engagement, while advancing the Zoo's commitment to sustainability, truth and reconciliation, and animal wellbeing. With a strong background in environmental stewardship and nonprofit leadership, Dolf is a passionate advocate for biodiversity and climate action. He is a frequent speaker on conservation and leadership, and is dedicated to connecting people with nature and inspiring action to protect wildlife and wild spaces.



Tonya Lagrasta (she/her)

Global Head of Sustainability, Colliers

Tonya Lagrasta is the Global Head of Sustainability at Colliers, leading ESG strategy, reporting, and integration across global operations. With 20+ years of experience in real estate, consulting, and retail, she is known for delivering measurable sustainability outcomes. Previously, she led ESG and Sustainability Solutions at Colliers Canada, building a national platform to support clients in reducing emissions and enhancing resilience. Tonya serves on numerous boards and advisory councils and continues to align Colliers' global sustainability strategy with evolving regulatory and investor expectations.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



Yas Hassen (they/them)

Associate Director, Skills for Change, Tamarack Institute Learning Centre

Yas Hassen is dedicated to fostering community engagement and ethical co-creation. With a Master's in Adult Education and Community Development from OISE, they emphasize collaboration and reciprocity in their work, learning from the land. Yas drives meaningful systems change through innovative public space and place-based learning methods, creating environments where diverse voices are valued in decision-making. They believe in the power of collective leadership and strive to empower everyone to contribute. Certified in Transformative Mediation and Conflict Coaching Skills, Yas is committed to (un)learning, enhancing their ability to facilitate constructive dialogue in conflict situations. They promote empathy and open communication, developing dynamic learning experiences that inspire communities to navigate challenges together.



Seán Kinsella (they/them)

Director, The Eighth Fire

Seán was born in Toronto, on Treaty 13 lands and grew up in Williams Treaty territory and currently resides between Toronto and sagetewedehgehwaam (Trent River) on Michi Saagig territory. They are the inaugural and current Director, the Eighth Fire at Centennial College a position that was envisioned and developed through the collaboration and leadership of Indigenous community members and Traditionalists. Seán has a Master of Education from the University of Toronto (OISE) and previously served as a contract faculty member in Centennial's First Peoples specialized academic certificate in addition to working full-time in Student Affairs for 14 years. They are a sought storyteller, and writer with several published book academic chapters and award-winning zines of sexy poetry. They have also done numerous public speaking engagements and sessions on Indigenous education, including most recently as the keynote for the Ontario Association of College and University Housing Officers (OACUHO) at their Annual Conference in June 2024.

EXHIBITORS



Centennial College
Sector: Academia



Evermaven Agency
Sector: Communications



City of Toronto
Sector: Municipality



Nedlaw Living Walls
Sector: Indoor Environmental Service



Alectra Energy Solutions
Sector: Utilities and Service Provider



Dream Pave Permeable
Sector: Landscaping



Edgecom Energy
Sector: Energy Management



Wastenot Farms Inc.
Sector: Retail

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