

# AIC2020 *Web Conference*

Investment Environment for Agri-Food  
Research and Innovation

## SPEAKER PROGRAM



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## Fall 2020

### SESSION #1 - Setting the stage: Importance of investments in agri-food research and innovation and their Rol

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| <b>November 10</b><br><b>1:00 - 2:30 pm ET</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rebecca Clarke</b>, Vice-President and Treasurer, Farm Credit Canada</li><li>• <b>Tom Rosser</b>, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</li><li>• <b>Andrew Schrumm</b>, Senior Manager, Research, RBC Thought Leadership</li></ul> |
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### SESSION #2 - Is there an investment gap for agri-food research and innovation?

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| <b>November 17</b><br><b>1:00 - 2:30 pm ET</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Laurie Dmytryshyn</b>, Chief of Equity Investments, PIC Investments</li><li>• <b>Lynne Godlien</b>, CEO, Perennia Food and Agriculture</li><li>• <b>Dave Smardon</b>, President and CEO, BioEnterprise</li><li>• <b>Alison Sunstrum</b>, Founder &amp; CEO, CNSRVX Inc</li></ul> |
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### SESSION #3 - Venture capital and banking: How they work and what they want

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| <b>November 24</b><br><b>1:00 - 2:30 pm ET</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Warren Bergen</b>, President, AVAC Ltd.</li><li>• <b>Eric Dillon</b>, CEO, Conexus Credit Union</li><li>• <b>Andrew Heintzman</b>, Managing Partner, InvestEco Capital Corp</li></ul> |
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### SESSION #4 - A better investment climate: Government investment and taxation

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| <b>December 1</b><br><b>1:00 - 2:30 pm ET</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Emily Gray</b>, Agriculture Policy Analyst, OECD</li><li>• <b>Carla Ventin</b>, Senior Vice President, Food and Consumer Products of Canada</li><li>• <b>Lee Ann Walker</b>, Assistant Deputy Minister, Research and Corporate Services Division, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs</li></ul> |
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## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

### PLATINUM



# SPEAKER PROGRAM

## SESSION # 1 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Setting the stage: Importance of investments in agri-food research and innovation and their Rol**

### **Rebbeca Clarke**

Vice-President and Treasurer, Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

Rebbeca is responsible for FCC's Treasury function, venture capital program, employee pension plans and portfolio and loan administration functions. She has over 26 years of experience at FCC in various roles within the Finance division, most recently leading the strategy to advance agriculture and food innovation, and growth through expanded venture capital investments and partnerships.

Rebbeca has a bachelor of administration from the University of Regina and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.



### **Tom Rosser**

Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Mr. Tom Rosser joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy in January 2017. He is responsible for leading major policy issues on behalf of the Department including Cabinet and intergovernmental affairs, implementing the Food Policy for Canada, as well as economic analysis.

Earlier in his career, Tom held a number of positions in both the public and private sectors related to economic and public policy analysis in natural resource sectors. This included assignments at NRCan, Industry Canada and the Forest Products Association of Canada.

A British Chevening Scholar, Tom holds a Master of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics from the University of London as well as Masters and Bachelor's degrees in Public Administration from Carleton University in Ottawa.



### **Andrew Schrumm**

Senior Manager, Research, RBC Thought Leadership

Andrew Schrumm is Senior Manager, Research in RBC's Thought Leadership group where he writes on education, labour markets and technology. He was author of the 2019 RBC report, Farmer 4.0 report which examined the technology-driven growth and emerging skills needs in agricultural production. Andrew holds degrees in Finance and in Political Studies from Queen's University, and previously worked on international financial regulatory coordination at the Ontario Securities Commission and Centre for International Governance Innovation.





# SPEAKER PROGRAM

## SESSION # 2 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Is there an investment gap for agri-food research and innovation?**

### **Laurie Dmytryshyn**

Chief of Equity Investments, PIC Investments

Laurie is Chief of Equity Investment for PIC Investment Group Inc. (PIC). PIC is a private, family office based out of Saskatoon. PIC owns eight operating companies in a variety of industries, along with 22 minority investments.

Prior to PIC, Laurie was Executive Director of the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. She has extensive Board experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors and holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and an MBA from the University of Saskatchewan.



### **Lynne Godlien**

CEO, Perennia Food and Agriculture

Lynne Godlien brings a unique marketing, business and adult education mix to her role as CEO of Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. Lynne provides leadership to the company's various service lines and teams, develops the strategy and vision for the company with the board, and is the chief of team culture, business thinking and empowerment.

Prior to becoming Perennia's CEO, Lynne was Director of Marketing and Communications. Previous positions have included senior communication and speechwriter positions with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Province of Saskatchewan. She has also worked in corporate and government relations in the private sector in Ottawa.

Lynne has a Journalism degree from Carleton University, an Executive Certificate in Marketing from St. Mary's University, a Certificate in Adult Education from Dalhousie University and a Certificate in Marketing Strategy from Cornell University.



### **Dave Smardon**

President and CEO, BioEnterprise

Dave Smardon is a forward-facing CEO, leading Canada's food & agri-tech engine. Under his guidance, BioEnterprise is navigating the shifting Canadian landscape of food, agriculture, and clean technologies delivering deep impact through high-growth scaling projects. Dave's corporate background includes Apple Computer Inc., Texas Instruments, angel investment and his own entrepreneurial pursuits. Dave believes in the potential of agri-tech to adopt emerging technologies, and that the Canadian ecosystem can work together towards global leadership.



# SPEAKER PROGRAM

## **Alison Sunstrum**

Founder & CEO, CNSRVX Inc.

Alison Sunstrum is Founder/CEO of CNSRV-X (Conserve X) a Canadian company researching and applying blockchain technology in agriculture.

Alongside GrowSafe Systems Ltd Founder/co-CEO, Camiel Huisma, the two developed an advanced data analytics machine learning platform that acquired data from individual animals and their environment. They grew their tech skunkworks from an Alberta garage to global operations; leading a team of engineers, computer and animal specialists that received International recognition for science-based innovation.

A recipient of the Beef Improvement Federation's distinguished service award Alison is a member of Canada's National Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table and holds a visiting appointment to West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.



## **SESSION # 3 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Venture capital and banking: How they work and what they want**

## **Warren Bergen**

President, AVAC Ltd.

Warren Bergen is President, AVAC Ltd., a venture capital company with >\$100Million under management. Warren is a member of the Limited Partner Advisory Committee for several venture capital funds including iNovia II, iNovia III, iNovia 2015 and Yaletown Ventures II. He serves on the board of directors of privately held companies and the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute. He is the author of Swagger & Sweat – A Start-up Capital Bootcamp.



## **Eric Dillon**

CEO, Connexus Credit Union

Eric Dillon is a leader within the cooperative finance movement in Canada and has worked extensively to shape the credit union business model. Eric is a serial innovator having been involved in some of the credit union systems recent innovations such as mobile payments, venture capital, social impact financing and measuring financial wellness.

Eric is a lifelong learner having graduate degrees in business coupled with industry education in governance, risk management and innovation.

Eric was recently recognized as a recipient of the 2019 Governor General of Canada Innovation Award. He currently serves on the board of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club, Concentra Bank and Economic Development Regina.



# SPEAKER PROGRAM

## **Andrew Heintzman**

Managing Partner, InvestEco Capital Corp

Andrew Heintzman is the managing partner and co-founder of InvestEco Capital, an impact investment firm focused on investing in companies that promote health and sustainability in the food sector. Andrew sits on a number of corporate boards, including Maple Hill Creamery, NadaMoo, and Mama Earth Organics. Andrew is the author of *The New Entrepreneurs: Building a Green Economy for the Future*, published by The House of Anansi Press. Andrew has a BA and an MA from McGill University.



## **SESSION # 4 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**A better investment climate: Government investment and taxation**

## **Dr. Emily Gray**

Agriculture Policy Analyst, OECD

Emily Gray is an agricultural policy analyst and the thematic lead for Innovation and Digital Agriculture in the OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate. Since joining the OECD in 2015, Emily has worked on a range of issues including projects on risk and resilience in agriculture, innovation systems in food and agriculture, and reviews of policies to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in OECD countries and Southeast Asia. Prior to joining the OECD, Emily was at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) where she carried out economic analysis and policy research on agricultural productivity and biosecurity policy. Emily has a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Sydney.



## **Carla Ventin**

Senior Vice President, Food and Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC)

Carla Ventin has been leading FCPC's government relations from the Ottawa office for more than 12 years, representing over 150 companies that manufacture and distribute the vast majority of the food, beverage and consumer goods found on store shelves, restaurants and in people's homes.

She has experience in public affairs in the private, government and non-profit sectors in Canada and abroad, with 15 years specifically in agri-food. This included her work for two federal cabinet ministers including the Minister of Agriculture, and abroad in Washington, DC and Hungary.



# SPEAKER PROGRAM

**Lee-Ann Walker**

Assistant Deputy Minister, Research and Corporate Services Division, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Lee-Ann Walker is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Research and Corporate Services Division. Under her leadership, the division administers the OMAFRA / University of Guelph Agreement, supports research knowledge translation and transfer, oversees the provincially owned agri-food research infrastructure, and delivers research programs. Lee-Ann also serves as the Director of Research for the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario.

Lee-Ann holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

