Speaker Biographies

VAN AGIORITIS is originally from Edmonton and graduated with a B Comm from University of Alberta. He has worked in various areas of commercial Real estate for the past 25 years, including hotels, multi-family residential, commercial as broker and landlord. He currently helps oversee Mills and Outlet leasing for Ivanhoé Cambridge Inc., and will celebrate his 15th year with Ivanhoé in June. For the last seven years, Van has resided in Calgary. He and his lovely wife Paula are expecting their first this September!

MAUREEN ATKINSON uses research to create the insights that show clients where the customer is going, how retailers are responding globally, and how they can increase their revenues by anticipating these changes. During her career at J.C. Williams Group, she has managed numerous studies that have provided data for positioning or repositioning plans, retail real estate marketing studies, new store format evaluation, new concept development and brand assessment among many other assignments. In addition, she has authored and co-authored books and white papers on retail research. She has a business degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University and is a past board member of the International Downtown Association where she chaired the Information Committee. She is also a founding member of the Canadian Research Group of the International Council of Shopping Centers and a member of the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association. She is an active board and committee member on several professional and charitable organizations using the governance knowledge from her work with the Institute of Corporate Directors where she earned her ICD.D designation.

KEN BARRY has over 35 years of Footwear and Clothing experience on the Western Canadian Retail Landscape. 70's, 80's, 90's, and New Millennium . . . From Dylex to Black Sheep Boutiques to Anthony's Clothings / Underground to United Colors of Benetton . . . To KIXS. KIXS Started in March 2009 and currently has 6 locations with Kingsway opening in May and West Edmonton Mall opening in June to bring the Total to 8 Locations. Employing over 40 and growing.

SHASHI BEHL's first business was Body Blocker, a manufacturer of state-of-the-art sun wear for children, which dramatically decreased the effects of the sun's UV rays. This business gave her the knowledge and skills to run her own business and later opened TwistedGoods, a retail store that specializes in funky, eclectic personal and home accessories. Owner Shashi Behl has store front in key malls in Calgary, AB – market Mall, South Centre, & Aspen Landing. With the retail knowledge and love for retail Shashi launched a 2nd retail banner in 2012 – Joydrop, with the 2nd location presently under construction in Market Mall.

ALEXANDRE BILODEAU wrote a page in Canadian history by becoming the first Olympian to win a gold medal on Canadian soil. Alexandre repeated his gold medal performance at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. A model of perseverance and a source of inspiration to many, he has proved himself to be one of Canada’s most talented young athletes. Originally from Rosemère, Alexandre fell in love with freestyle skiing after having seen the spectacular performance of Quebecer Jean-Luc Brassard in Lillehammer, in 1994. On the trail of his idol, he became, at the age of 14, the best junior Canadian in three disciplines: jumps, moguls and dual moguls. He joined the national freestyle moguls ski team at 17 years old and participated in the Olympic Games in Turin in 2006, where he finished in 11th place. That same year, Alexandre won his first competition at the World Cup and became the youngest Moguls freestyle skier to make it to the highest podium in this discipline. He ended the 2005-2006 season in second place in the final medal results. Alexandre’s ascent continued in 2008-2009, as he went on to win the World Championships in dual moguls, and also placed first at the World Cup in freestyle dual moguls. At the Winter Olympic Games in 2010, Alexandre won a gold medal — a feat he repeated in at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

ARLENE CHAMULAK worked as a Senior Project Management Consultant in both the Oil & Gas Industry and various Retail Organizations across Canada and throughout the US before opening the first Oil & Vinegar store in Calgary. Her specializations were Software System Upgrades, IT Audit, Governance /Compliance and Supply Chain Management. Growing up with an entrepreneurial Father and a Mother that loved cooking and gardening, Arlene not only learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur, but she also grew up cooking and experimenting in the kitchen with her Mother and Sisters. She still remembers the day they’d be glued to the TV watching "Wok with Yari’s” newest recipe – and running to the one Asian grocery store in Saskatoon to buy ALL the ingredients to make chinese food at home. Arlene and her fiancee Les travel extensively, and is in fact, how they discovered Oil & Vinegar – as they stumbled upon one of the company’s 93 stores around the World. Together Arlene and Les have explored the amazing culinary treats of other countries, not to mention the beautiful gourmet food shops, deli’s or patisserie’s on almost every street corner that offered such a larger variety of products then those found in most Canadian shops. The Oil & Vinegar brand that her and her fiancee Les have brought to Canada, represents for them, this wonderful selection of gourmet tastes from around the World.

TODD GALLANT co-founded BizBOXTV, a Canadian Online Video Advertising Company serving Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton & Toronto. Founded in 2009 with Lisa Ostrikoff, BizBOXTV builds upon the principles of traditional broadcast media to connect clients with the power of emerging digital media, as the most cost effective solution to increase brand awareness and sales. Clients & partners include major media networks, large corporations and organizations as well as small-medium businesses in all cities & industries across Canada and North America.

WARREN GAYLE is a senior consultant practicing in his own firm, PRR Consulting Inc., since its inception in 1992. He holds a B. Comm from the University of British Columbia. Prior to starting his own business, Warren has been employed with Finning, Xerox Canada, BC Place Corporation, Motorola Cellular and Triathlon (a former financial division of Brascan). During his tenure with these organizations, his positions included increasing responsibility in the areas of sales, marketing, finance and management. In the latter part of 1992, PRR was created, focusing in the areas of strategic planning, procurement process, contract negotiations, business planning/development, project management/implementation and efficiencies management. Warren has conducted engagements in the areas of business performance innovation, strategic business planning, contracting out of non core services for the public sector, organizational reviews/financial restructuring of private companies and developed ASD, shared services projects for private and public industry. In the noted experience below, PRR was integral in the planning, strategy and implementation of these representative projects.

TODD HIRSCH is ATB Financial's Chief Economist. He holds a BA Honours in Economics from the University of Alberta and an MA in Economics from the University of Calgary. For over 20 years he’s worked as an economist at several different companies including Canadian Pacific
Railway, the Canada West Foundation and the Bank of Canada. For almost a decade, Todd taught economics at the University of Calgary. Todd regularly provides economic commentary for several Canadian media outlets and is a regular columnist for the Globe and Mail. He’s been recognized as one of Alberta’s 50 Most Influential People by Alberta Venture magazine. In August 2013, Todd was appointed chair of the Premier’s Council on Culture, and in early 2014 he was appointed to the Alberta Economic Development Authority. He is also the author of The Boiling Frog Dilemma: Saving Canada from Economic Decline.

CHRIS LOVE has over 25 years of experience as a consulting engineer in the building sector. During this time, Chris has overseen and managed the delivery of hundreds of engineering projects in the fields of building renewal, property conditions assessments, enclosure engineering, and green planning & design for commercial, retail and industrial properties. As a managing principal and the regional manager of Halsall Associates’ Calgary office, Chris is responsible for overseeing the service delivery for Halsall’s Alberta projects and providing technical expertise to the Halsall team. Some of Chris’ notable projects in Alberta include projects such as the CORE in downtown Calgary where he oversaw an Integrated Energy Assessment, as well as the Home and Dome Towers, the University of Calgary, Chateau Lake Louise and the National Music Centre which is currently under construction.

JOHN MORRISON is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Choice Properties and has over 30 years’ experience in the commercial real estate industry, primarily in the shopping centre asset class. Prior to his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer of Choice Properties, Mr. Morrison was President and Chief Executive Officer of Primaris Real Estate Investment Trust from 2009 to 2013. Prior to serving in that role, he was President, Real Estate Management, at Oxford Properties Group, where he was responsible for the performance of Oxford’s $10 billion domestic portfolio of office, industrial, multi-family residential and shopping centre properties, including Primaris properties. Mr. Morrison is on the Board of Trustees for the International Council of Shopping Centres and currently serves on the Executive Committee as Divisional Vice President for Canada. He is also former Vice Chairman of the Urban Land Institute Toronto District Council.

LISA OSTRIKOFF co-founded BizBOXTV, a Canadian Online Video Advertising Company serving Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton & Toronto. Founded in 2009 with Todd Gallant, BizBOXTV builds upon the principles of traditional broadcast media to connect clients with the power of emerging digital media, as the most cost effective solution to increase brand awareness and sales. Clients & partners include major media networks, large corporations and organizations as well as small-medium businesses in all cities & industries across Canada and North America.

WAYNE RENICK was born in Toronto in 1967 and grew up in Red Deer Alberta. Always active in a variety of sports and having a passion for business Wayne graduated from Red Deer College with a Business Administration Diploma in 1989. Later that same year he transitioned right into the business world opening one of Canada’s first Jersey City franchise stores with current business partner and friend Alf Garvin. Over a 10 year span the company grew to six stores. In 1999 Wayne, Alf and current business partner Brent Boyle bought the company from the franchisor and converted the stores to corporate locations. Since then the group has grown the company to 29 Jersey City locations, 9 Capz locations, 3 E-Commerce domains (Jerseycity.ca, Capz.ca and CFLShop.ca) and over 300 team members. Wayne is now responsible for Strategic Planning, Company expansion, Leasing and over sees Buying, Marketing, as well as Vendor, League and Landlord relations. Through the Jersey City & Capz Charity golf tournament the team has given back hundreds of thousands of dollars to many community initiatives including The Impact Society (a non-profit that inspires youth) as well funding and granting of 30 children’s wishes through The Make a Wish Foundation. One of the Companies proudest moments happened a few weeks ago when Wayne, Alf, Brent and Team were awarded one of Canada’s 50 Best Managed Companies. This award encapsulates the dedication, drive and passion of the entire Jersey City and Capz organization!

FABRIZIO STANGHIERI has been in the role of Senior Vice President, Real Estate and Construction since January 2011. He is responsible for managing all aspects of corporate real estate and development, including the new theatre builds, acquisitions, dispositions, expansions, renovations, and lease administration. In 2012, Fab was also named General Manager of Cineplex Digital Solutions – one of the company’s digital signage businesses which is based in Waterloo, Ontario. Prior to assuming his current role, Mr. Stanghieri was Vice President, Real Estate and Corporate Planning, Cineplex Entertainment, from July 2005 to January 2011 and held the position of Vice President Real Estate at Cineplex Galaxy from April 2003 to July 2005. Mr. Stanghieri originally joined Cineplex Odeon Corporation in September 1996, as Manager of Real Estate and Planning, and held various senior roles within Real estate, Business Development, Government Relations, Construction and Corporate Planning throughout this career. He is a member of the board of directors for the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Canada and the National Association of Theatre Owners.

SCOTT STRATTEN, an expert in viral, social, and authentic marketing shows audiences (using real life, practical examples) how to unlearn the old ways and consistently attract, engage, and hold on to the right customers. For generations, marketing has been hypocritical. We’ve been taught to market to others in ways we hate being marketed to—why do we still keep trying the same stale marketing moves? Formerly a music industry marketer, national sales training manager, and a professor at the Sheridan College School of Business, Stratten ran his “UnAgency” for nearly a decade before solely focusing on speaking at events for companies like PepsiCo, Adobe, Red Cross, Cirque du Soleil, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Fidelity Investments. Stratten has over 135,000 people who follow him on Twitter, he was named one of the “Top Five Social Media Influencers in the World” by Forbes.com, and named one of “America’s 10 Marketing Gurus” by Business Review USA. Stratten’s first book, UnMarketing: Stop Marketing, Start Engaging became a national bestseller before it was released, and a number one business bestseller in The Globe and Mail and The National Post and on Amazon.com, Amazon.ca. His second book, The Book Of Business Awesome: How Engaging Your Customers and Employees Can Make Your Business Thrive was also a national bestseller.

DAVID USHER is a creative tour de force. As the front man of the internationally acclaimed rock band Moist, and as a solo artist, David has sold more than 1.4 million albums, won countless awards—including five Junos—and performed at sold-out venues around the world. Believing that creativity and creative success is a learnable skill that anyone can master, his unique and dynamic presentations employ music and video to show audiences the steps they can take to stimulate the creative process at home and at work. When David is not making music, he is equally passionate about using technology to build new and interesting businesses. His company, Cloudic Creativity Labs, works on a vast range of innovative projects, from building web platforms to creative consulting for clients like Cirque du Soleil, Deloitte, and the Toronto International Film Festival. David sits on the advisory board of McGill University’s Institute for the Public Life of Art and Ideas and is the founding director of Amnesty International’s Artists for Amnesty. David has a degree in political science from Simon Fraser University and has lived and traveled all over the world. When he’s not on the road, he can be found in front of a computer dreaming up something new to create. His new book on creativity and the creative process is due in spring 2015, while his upcoming album will be released in September 2015.