Canada’s Most Admired CEO™ - 2018 Winners

John Betts
President and CEO, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Limited
Enterprise Winner

John Betts, President and CEO, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Limited, began his career with McDonald’s in 1970 as a Crew Member in Southampton, New York. He then held numerous roles of increasing responsibility in the areas of operations, field service, training and purchasing throughout the U.S.

Throughout his career, Mr. Betts has been recognized as an outstanding contributor to the global McDonald’s system, receiving numerous awards including the prestigious Presidents’ Award, reserved for the top 1% of McDonald’s employees globally.

In 2008, Mr. Betts took on the role of President and CEO for the Canadian business. Under his leadership, McDonald’s Canada has achieved incredible business momentum, increased annual sales and guest counts, undertaken a comprehensive restaurant re-imaging program, and introduced relevant menu enhancements like McCafé – making McDonald’s a leading destination for premium coffee.

John’s passion for the McDonald’s brand is brought to life by a strong focus on responding to the needs of McDonald’s guests and employees – and exceeding their expectations from coast to coast. McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Limited and its Canadian franchisees own and operate over 1,450 restaurants and employ more than 100,000 Canadians.

John has received several industry awards recognizing this same passion for connecting with consumers. He was honoured with the CEO of the Year in Public Relations Award from the Canadian Public Relations Society, and has also been inducted into the American Marketing Association’s Marketing Hall of Legends as one of the industry’s biggest thinkers and influencers.

In addition to his role as supporter and board member of Ronald McDonald House Charities, John also sits on the Advisory Board for Catalyst Canada. John lives in Toronto with his wife Bridget and their two children.

Jim Spatz
Executive Chairman, Southwest Properties Ltd.
Mid-Market Winner

Jim Spatz is the Executive Chairman of Southwest Properties Limited, one of Atlantic Canada’s leading real estate developers. Southwest owns, operates and develops residential and commercial real estate in Atlantic Canada and extended stay accommodations across Canada.
Southwest has grown its property portfolio by constructing real estate assets from the ground up, as well as the acquisition and repurposing of real estate assets with major redevelopment potential. Southwest has accumulated an extensive and balanced portfolio of properties and investments, including more than 1,500 high quality apartments and condominium units situated in the best residential areas of Halifax, and nearly 700 hotel rooms in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Southwest redeveloped and owns Atlantic Place, the largest office building in Newfoundland. It is also the majority shareholder in Premiere Suites, with over 1,500 units. Premiere is Canada’s largest coast-to-coast provider of furnished extended-stay accommodations and is the fourth largest in North America. Southwest has four major multi-unit and mixed-use projects in the planning and construction phase in Halifax, which will double the size of its Halifax portfolio in the next several years.

Jim has led the company for the past 25 years. His first career was as a physician. Jim practiced Family and then Emergency Medicine for 15 years.

Along with his responsibilities in the office, Jim is actively involved in a number of community activities. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Halifax Port Authority and is a Life Director of Neptune Theatre. He is also a member of the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee’s (CIPAC) Advisory Board. Jim is a founding partner and Fellow of the Creative Destruction Lab Atlantic, the mentorship and investment organization for technology start-up ventures in the region. Jim also served on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University, Atlantic Canada’s largest university, from 2001 – 2015, and was their Board Chair from 2008 – 2014. Most recently Jim sat on the Board of the Canadian Stem Cell Foundation and the National Executive Committee for the 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference, Canada’s most prestigious leadership development experience.

In 2007, Jim along with his late father, Simon, were inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame. In 2013, Jim received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his significant achievements and contributions to the community. In May 2015, Jim was named Atlantic Business Magazine’s CEO of the Year for Atlantic Canada. Jim is a member of WPO and CEO.

Mandy Rennehan
Blue-Collar CEO™ & Founder, Freshco.ca (Not the grocery store!)
Growth Winner

Mandy Rennehan (a.k.a. Bear) is called the Blue-Collar CEO™ for her ability to seamlessly navigate between the white- and blue-collar worlds, and to respectfully ‘tell it like it is’. Mandy is a sought-after speaker, multiple award-winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, and trade industry ambassador.

She left her hometown of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, at 18 with a dirty hockey bag and an audacious dream. By 19, she founded Freshco, Canada’s #1, full-service, reconstruction and retail maintenance provider operating across Canada and the eastern United States serving clients like Anthropologie, Apple, Banana Republic, Home Depot, Lululemon, Nike, Restoration Hardware, Sephora, The Gap, Tiffany & Co., plus many more.
Freshco and Mandy have received countless business awards including, Toronto Region Board of Trade Business Leader of the Year, Top 25 Women of Influence, the RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur “Momentum” Award, Growth 500 Excellence in Innovation, (WXN’s) Top 100 Most Powerful Women – Hall of Fame, CGLCC LGBT Business of the Year and Atlantic Business Magazine’s Top 50 CEOs.

Mandy’s vision goes well beyond building successful businesses. She is redefining the collar, blue™ to help solve the massive skilled trade shortage in North America. It is a profound economic and social issue that affects everyone. Consumers are paying more and waiting longer for services, companies aren’t able to scale, and important infrastructure projects, like roads, transit and hospitals are being delayed. Mandy is challenging the misconception that white-collar jobs are “better” or “more desirable” than blue-collar ones. Society needs both collars, and if we do not change this, the crippling effects of the skilled labour shortage will only get worse.

Mandy defies labels. The description she often gets is “refreshing.” Her (respectfully) uncensored honesty is matched by her quick wit, East Coast humour, and big heart. It is impossible to remain unchanged after coming into contact with this authentic, self-taught and self-made powerhouse.

Kathy Kinloch
President, British Columbia Institute of Technology
Broader Public Sector Winner

Kathy Kinloch is President of the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), Canada’s premier polytechnic institution serving approximately 50,000 students annually, a position she has held since January 2014. Her focus is broadening and deepening BCIT’s partnerships with business, industry and community within B.C., across Canada and globally.

Kathy is recognized for leading organizational renewal in complex environments. Through a number of senior leadership and executive roles, she has spearheaded successful strategic change initiatives in the post-secondary as well as government and health care sectors.

Acknowledgements of Kathy’s accomplishments include Top 100 Public Sector Leaders, WXN’s ranking of Canada’s Top 100 Women; Top 50 Power Lists, Vancouver Magazine; Most Influential Women in Business, BC Business magazine; Influential Women in Business Awards, Business in Vancouver magazine; Woman of Distinction, YWCA Metro Vancouver; and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Royal Roads University.

Kathy holds a Diploma in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science (Nursing, with Distinction) from University of Alberta, a Master of Arts in Leadership (Chancellors Award) and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching from Royal Roads University.

Kathy’s board positions include the Business Council of BC; Polytechnics Canada; Surrey Hospital and Outpatient Centre Foundation; Public Policy Forum and TELUS Corporation. She is also a member of the Business Council of Canada’s Business ‘Higher Education Roundtable’ and, is currently chairing a provincial Task Force examining the emerging economy.
Bruce Poon Tip
Founder, G Adventures
Social Entrepreneurship Winner

Entrepreneur, leader and philanthropist Bruce Poon Tip, is the founder of G Adventures, an award-winning small group adventure travel company and social enterprise. Following a transformational backpacking trip to Asia, Bruce had an idea to change the face of travel. In 1990, at the age of 22 and on two maxed-out credit cards, Bruce started G Adventures, a tour operator designed to bridge the divide between backpacking and mainstream travel, and to connect travelers with local people in the countries they visit.

Fast forward 28 years: G Adventures is the now the world’s largest small group adventure travel company, with 28 offices worldwide. We host 200,000 travelers per year, offer more than 700 tours, and travel to 100 countries — across all seven continents.

In 2003, with a vision that travel could be a force for social good and significant wealth distribution, Bruce founded G Adventures’ nonprofit partner, the Planeterra Foundation. Planeterra harnesses the power of the tourism supply chain to channel travelers’ dollars into underserved communities around the world.

Bruce’s work with organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), like-minded companies, and indigenous people, has led to support for more than 50 community development projects globally, with another 25 planned to enter the tourism supply chain by 2020. This means 92% of G Adventures travelers will visit a social enterprise project on their tour. Passionate about the power of travel to change the world for the better, Bruce has become a global leader in social entrepreneurship, leadership, immersive travel, and innovation.

He has addressed the United Nations and the World Bank, spoken at the headquarters of Apple and Google, and delivered keynote speeches at TED events and entrepreneurship conferences around the world.

In 2012, Bruce was inducted into the Social Venture Network Hall of Fame, joining celebrated entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson (Virgin Airlines), Anita Roddick (The Body Shop), and Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield (Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream). He was also awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which recognizes significant contributions to society, and named EY Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016, 2006 and 2002. In 2018, Bruce was inducted into the British Travel and Hospitality Hall of Fame, and honoured as one of AFAR USA’s ‘Travel Vanguards’ – a visionary travel industry leader who is changing the face of travel for the better.

Built on the foundation of a strong company culture that celebrates happiness and freedom and rewards disruptive innovation through risk-taking and fun, G Adventures has been named one of the 50 Best Managed Companies for more than 10 years and is repeatedly recognized as a “best place to work” in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
Clive Beddoe
Founding Shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors, WestJet
Lifetime Achievement Winner

Clive Beddoe is a founding shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of WestJet. In September 2007, Clive was appointed WestJet Chairman having previously held the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer. Clive has been instrumental in making WestJet one of the most successful airlines in recent aviation history.

Clive’s keen business acumen has shaped the development of WestJet’s corporate culture, executive team and strategy. A true entrepreneur, Clive’s strong background in financial planning and strategic management was gained through several successful real estate and plastics enterprises.

In 2000, Clive and his fellow WestJet founders received the Worldwide Award for Teamwork at the World Entrepreneur of the Year celebrations. In 2001, he received the Pinnacle Award, and in that same year, WestJet was awarded the “Business Ethics” award from the Better Business Bureau of Southern Alberta. In 2002 and 2003, WestJet was named one of Canada’s most respected companies, and in 2003, WestJet received the Most Respected Corporation title for Innovative Practices from Alberta Venture Magazine. In 2004, Clive received the prestigious Canadian Business Leader Award from the University of Alberta Faculty of Business and the Business Advisory Council.

Clive has been the recipient of honorary degrees from the University of Calgary and Wilfrid Laurier University and was appointed the 2010/2011 Jarislowsky Resident Fellow in Business Management at the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary. In 2012, Mr. Beddoe was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame and, in 2013, was inducted into the Calgary Business Hall of Fame.

Clive is a resident of Calgary, having immigrated to Canada from England in 1970. Married with two children, Clive is a private pilot licensed to fly numerous types of aircraft. It was through this keen interest in aviation that spurred the formation of WestJet.
Canada’s Most Admired CEO™ - 2017 Winners

John Anderson
Chairman, President & CEO
The Oppenheimer Group
2017 Enterprise Winner

For more than 40 years, John Anderson’s finely-honed business instincts have left an indelible mark on a global industry, while building Oppy into a strong and successful produce marketing enterprise.

After John joined us as a warehouseman, he moved rapidly through sales and operations roles into executive level management, contributing ideas that shaped the future performance of the organization. By forging strong international relationships that assured uninterrupted supplies of preferred produce items, and channeling resources into logistics and technology, John’s efforts have set Oppy apart as a leader. And through his dedication to strategic growth and guidance of our “expect the world from us culture”, we’ve stayed that way.

Meanwhile, John has led numerous key industry initiatives, from streamlining international trade to recruiting the best young talent to the produce community. His work on industry boards and committees has earned him a reputation for leadership and insight well beyond the Oppy network.

John’s contributions to the produce industry and general business community have led to numerous professional awards. Most recently, he was named by Waterstone Human Capital and MacKay CEO Forums as one of Canada’s Most Admired CEOs. In 2012, John became the first and only Canadian to be honored as The Packer’s “Produce Marketer of the Year,” and named in 2013 as a “Dealmaker of the Year” by the BC Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth (AGC). In 2014, John received the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Chilean & American Chamber of Commerce, recognized by Senator and Lieutenant Governor-elect Mike Stack as a person who has made a difference to the well-being of the people living and working in the state of Pennsylvania. Shortly afterward, he was also honored with a “BC CEO Award” in the major private company category. In 2015, John was named as Ernst & Young’s 2015 “Entrepreneur of the Year” not only for the food and beverage category but for the Pacific Region overall.

Under John’s leadership, Oppy has been designated among Canada’s Best Managed Companies for 16 years running, and was recognized for having one of Canada’s 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures in 2016.
Mike Wessinger
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
PointClickCare
2017 Mid-Market Winner

Mike Wessinger is the Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of PointClickCare, the leading cloud-based software for the senior care market. After founding the company in 2000, Mike quickly established himself as an entrepreneur and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) pioneer. He is responsible for introducing the first cloud-based electronic health record (EHR) platform in the long-term post-acute care industry.

Mike has been an instrumental force in changing the way senior care providers leverage innovative technologies to maximize financial outcomes and improve the health and wellness of their residents. Mike’s forward-thinking vision to design the industry’s first EHR solution, leveraging a SaaS model, proved to be an industry game-changer that has become a standard software delivery model for the senior care market.

Today, PointClickCare employs over 1,300 people, with 15,000 care providers throughout North America using its software every day.

Debra Hewson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Odlum Brown Limited
2017 Growth Winner

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Odlum Brown Limited, Debra leads with objective and strategic insight developed from an accomplished career in the investment industry spanning over 35 years. Debra joined Odlum Brown in 1991, and prior to becoming President and CEO in 2007, she was Chief Operating Officer for seven years.

Debra has earned a reputation for her vision, passion and dedication as a leader in the business community. She is a board member of St. Paul’s Foundation, a member of the UBC Sauder School of Business Faculty Advisory Board, an Industry Director for the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and a member of the Vancouver Public Library Fundraising Campaign Cabinet.

Debra is a strong supporter of Odlum Brown’s sponsorship and charitable giving programs. In 2016, she was recognized for her leadership with the Joseph and Rosalie Segal United Way Community Vision Award. Debra was also the recipient of a 2016 BC CEO Award from Business in Vancouver, and in 2015 received an Influential Women in Business Award. In 2012, Debra was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the BC Community Achievement Award, and was also inducted into the Women’s Executive Network’s Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Hall of Fame after being recognized as one of the Top 100 for three consecutive years.
Dr. Catherine Zahn, C.M.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
2017 Broader Public Sector Winner

Dr. Zahn was appointed President and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in 2009. CAMH is the leading mental health hospital in Canada and the country’s largest academic health science centre focused on mental illness.

Dr. Zahn is a Professor in the U of T Faculty of Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She has made numerous contributions to health care in Ontario through her leadership in hospital integration, technology assessment and mental healthcare system improvement.

Recent honours include membership in the Order of Canada, Doctor of Laws degrees from Western University, and Ryerson University, and the York University Bryden Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Dr. Zahn is a champion for the integration of psychiatry and neuroscience, passionately working to steer mental illness into the mainstream of healthcare, promoting equitable access to healthcare resources for people with mental illness.

David Ossip
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Ceridian
2017 Transformational Leadership Winner

David Ossip is the driving force behind the innovation, vision and leadership at Ceridian, one of the fastest growing global Human Capital Management technology companies.

Previously, David founded Dayforce – a highly successful SaaS-based workforce management software company – which was acquired by Ceridian in 2012. Since then David has led the transformation and renewal of Ceridian, with a focus on the Dayforce HCM offering. In 2013, David became the CEO of Ceridian and in 2015, its Chairman. David also serves as Chairman of LifeWorks, an employee engagement company, offering an industry-first mobile Employee Engagement Platform and wellness expertise to more than 15 million users in the US, Canada and the UK.

David is the recipient of many awards for his leadership, including the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and a nationally awarded Special Citation for Technology Innovation. David was also named to Canada’s Top 40 under 40. In 2016 Ceridian was recognized as one of Canada’s 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures and in 2017 David was awarded Canada’s Most Admired CEO for Transformational Leadership by Waterstone Human Capital. David has also been named as one of the top CEOs by Glassdoor, and Ceridian one of the best places to work in 2017.
Alongside his work at Ceridian, David is a champion of Canadian Entrepreneurship and is dedicated to helping build Canada’s Tech ecosystem. For instance, he is actively involved with the Canadian Council of Innovators, a business council focused on helping Canadian technology firms scale-up globally. He also Chairs the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Growth’s Scale-Up Program’s Committee on Procurement to help make it easier for Ontario-based scale-ups to acquire customers. David is also a member of the G7 Fellows at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management’s Creative Destruction Lab – a Venture Lab that leverages the business school’s infrastructure, industry network, and the inventions and talent from the world-class, technology-oriented faculties at the University of Toronto. In addition, David is an advisory board member of OMERS and an investor/advisor in companies such as Thalmic Labs and WealthSimple. Plus, under David’s leadership Ceridian has helped establish #MoveTheDial as a founding partner. #MoveTheDial is a global movement committed to raise the profile of, and create opportunities for women in the tech sector.
Darren Entwistle
President and CEO
TELUS
2016 Enterprise Winner

Darren Entwistle joined TELUS in 2000 as President and CEO, becoming the longest-serving CEO amongst incumbent telecommunication companies worldwide. Under Darren’s leadership, TELUS has evolved from a regional telephone company serving Western Canada into a national data and wireless leader. Notably, since the beginning of 2000 through to early 2017, TELUS has generated a total shareholder return of 373 per cent. During this same timeframe, the TELUS brand has increased in value from a few hundred million dollars to $4.7 billion today and is ranked #1 for brand reputation by Leger Marketing.

Darren believes passionately that TELUS’ greatest asset is the nearly 50,000 talented individuals around the globe who comprise the TELUS team. This incredible level of engagement led to TELUS earning the distinction of being the sixth company ever inducted into the 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures Hall of Fame by Waterstone Human Capital. Moreover, TELUS is the only organization to be inducted into the BEST of the Best Hall of Fame by the Association for Talent Development in recognition of its global excellence in learning and development.

In recognition of Darren’s exemplary contributions to the community and to Canada as a whole, in 2003 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and in 2012 he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2015, Darren received the President’s Award from the Institute for Performance and Development and in 2012 he was presented with the inaugural Innovator of the Year award from the Ontario Science Centre in honour of his contributions to innovation in science. Darren’s achievements have earned him several national and international awards in business, education and philanthropy.

Sean O’Brien
President and CEO
Reliance Home Comfort
2016 Mid-Market Winner

Sean is the President and CEO of Reliance Home Comfort, a Canadian leader in home and commercial services, providing water heaters, furnaces, air conditioners and other HVAC products, plumbing, protection plans and related services to more than 1.7 million customers across Canada and the US. Since becoming President and CEO in 2013, Sean has focused on planning and implementing strategies to drive growth with
an emphasis on strong execution, streamlining operations. In the process, he has improved productivity and profitability, and fostered a high-performance culture — keeping the customer at the core of the business. In 2016, Reliance was recognized as Canada’s Top 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures by Waterstone Human Capital, and Sean was awarded Canada’s Most Admired CEO. Additionally, in 2017, Sean was recognized as one of Glassdoor’s Highest Rated CEOs 2017 Employees’ Choice.

Prior to joining Reliance, Sean was President at Acklands-Grainger, Inc. (AGI). He was responsible for all aspects of AGI’s business in Canada. Previous to his role as President, Sean was Vice-President, Sales & Marketing, leading several key sales initiatives, marketing programs, business services and inventory solutions initiatives. During his tenure, AGI (Grainger) was ranked #1 on FORTUNE magazine’s 2010 list of World’s Most Admired Companies in the category of Wholesalers: Diversified, and twice recognized as one of Canada’s 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures by Waterstone Human Capital.

Sean graduated from Bishop’s University in Quebec with a Bachelor of Arts. He supports various not for profit organizations and charities in his community.

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John Nicola  
Chairman and CEO  
Nicola Wealth Management  
2016 Growth Winner

A veteran of the financial services industry since 1974, John provides strategic leadership to Nicola Wealth Management, exercising his passion for providing innovative solutions to clients’ complex problems.

His areas of expertise include investment management, estate and financial planning, as well as business planning with a focus on best practices for wealth building, exit strategies, and shareholder agreements.

In 2011, John was selected as the winner of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Financial and Professional Services in the Pacific Region), in 2015 John was named the Winner of Business In Vancouver’s BC CEO of the Year Award – Small-Medium Private Company, and most recently, John was recognized as one of Canada’s Most Admired CEOs.

He is a Founding Member of CALU (Conference for Life Underwriters) and has continued to contribute to the organization for example, by serving as the Chair for the 2003 annual meeting. John also sits on the Canuck Place Hospice Society Board of Directors. Using his business acumen to help develop and grow this and several other not-for-profit organizations over a number of years. These include The Pivot Law Society, a volunteer legal society defending the underrepresented issues facing Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, and Bulembu International, a foundation dedicated to helping an abandoned African mining village become self-sufficient.

Married for over 40 years, John and Claire have 3 children – Christopher, Jason and Jared, all of whom are married, providing 4 grandchildren: Chloe, Lilly, Wyatt, and Parker. Family is a big focus for both of them.
Ray Ivany
President and Vice-Chancellor
Acadia University
2016 Broader Public Sector Winner

Ray Ivany became the 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University in April 2009. A native of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Ray was previously Chair of the Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia and a Principal of the consulting firm, Ivany and Associates. Between 1998 and 2005, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and, prior to that, served as Executive Vice-President at the University College of Cape Breton. In November 2012, he was appointed Chair of the Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy, and he currently Chairs the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust, is Past-Chair of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, Vice-Chair of Nova Scotia Business Inc., former Council Member of the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, former Director of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and, Director Nova Scotia Power Inc., Governor, Rothesay Netherwood School and is an Advisor of Mi’kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq.

Ray has a long history of executive leadership and community involvement in Nova Scotia and across Canada.

Ray has also advised various levels of government through appointments to the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, Ontario Investing in Students Taskforce, and the Nova Scotia Premier’s Fiscal Management Taskforce, and the Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy. His achievements have earned Ray several awards of distinction.
Canada’s Most Admired CEO™ - 2015 Winners

Chuck Jeannes
CEO
Goldcorp
2015 Enterprise Winner

Charles A. Jeannes was appointed President and CEO of Goldcorp in December 2008. Mr. Jeannes previously held the role of Executive Vice President, Corporate Development from November 2006 until December 31, 2008. Mr. Jeannes was former Executive Vice President, Administration, General Counsel and Secretary of Glamis Gold from 1999 until its merger with Goldcorp in November 2006.

Prior to joining Glamis, Mr. Jeannes worked for Placer Dome at its San Francisco and Vancouver offices as Vice President of Placer Dome North America. He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Nevada and graduated from the University of Arizona School of Law with honors in 1983. He practiced law from 1982 until 1994 as a shareholder and head of the natural resources section at Woodburn and Wedge in Reno, Nevada and has broad experience in mining transactions, public and private financing, permitting and international regulation.

David ‘Patch’ Patchell-Evans
Founder and CEO
GoodLife Fitness
2015 Mid-Market Winner

David Patchell-Evans or ‘Patch’, as he prefers to be called, is the founder and CEO of GoodLife Fitness. Patch started his company from scratch, opening of his first club in 1979 in London, Ontario. From that modest beginning, GoodLife Fitness has grown to be the largest fitness company in Canada. That translates into 350 clubs and 1.2 million members. One in every 30 Canadians is a GoodLife member. Patch has been unwavering in his big vision—to transform the health and wellness of Canadians by giving all Canadians the opportunity to live a fit and healthy good life.

To that end GoodLife helps youth ages 12-17 by providing free Teen Fitness each summer. GoodLife Kids Foundation has been inspiring kids to get active since 1998. The foundation partners with elementary school teachers to teach fitness skills for kids during after-school programs at no cost to schools and grants funding for physical activity programs for children with special needs.

In 2010 Patch officially became a global advocate for health and fitness. As Chair of IHRSA—the world’s leading health and fitness association representing 71 countries, he was instrumental in leading the charge to transform the world through fitness.

In 1999 Patch’s three-year old daughter Kilee was diagnosed with autism. Hoping to help other families devastated by this condition, Patch turned to research, education and clinical solutions. He co-
founded with Dr. Derrick MacFabe the Kilee Patchell-Evans Autism Research Group at Western University which has received invitations to present their research at the Nobel Institute in Sweden. He volunteered as the President of Autism Canada. His has supported and enabled the building of the GoodLife Fitness Autism Family Hub in Richmond, B.C. opening in 2016.

The GoodLife Fitness Chair in Cardiovascular Rehabilitation and Prevention was established in 2012. Together, Peter Munk Cardiac Centre cardiologists and GoodLife elite Personal Trainers developed the first-of-its-kind partnership around cardiac rehabilitation.

Wehuns Tan
Managing Director & CEO
Flipp Corporation
2015 Growth Winner

Wehuns Tan is the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Flipp, a leading mobile marketplace that connects millions of shoppers with retailers and brands. As Chief Executive Officer, Wehuns drives the company’s vision to transform the retail industry and reinvent digital shopping. Under his leadership, the company has grown to more than 600 team members worldwide, receiving several industry accolades for its unique culture, including Deloitte's 50 Best Managed Companies (2015), Best Workplaces in Canada (2014, 2015 and 2016), and the Flipp app has grown rapidly, with millions of active shoppers, it’s the fourth fastest growing app in the United States. Wehuns has been published in Forbes, Bloomberg and The Globe and Mail, and has been named Canada’s Most Admired CEO (2015). He’s worked at Microsoft, Cisco, HP and Deloitte and holds a Computer Engineering degree from the University of Waterloo.

Marc and Craig Kielburger
Co-Founders
WE
2015 Broader Public Sector Winners

Marc Kielburger is a social entrepreneur, New York Times best-selling author and gifted orator.

Along with his brother Craig, Marc is co-founder of Free The Children, an international charity and educational partner that empowers youth to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change.

Marc is also the co-founder of Me to We, an innovative social enterprise that advances the vision of philanthropy and provides people with better choices for a better world. Half of Me to We’s net profit is donated to Free The Children, while the other half is reinvested to grow the enterprise and its social mission.
Every year, Marc and Craig organize a series of We Days, Free The Children’s signature domestic event attended by 200,000 students from 6,000 schools. We Day also reaches over 6 million viewers through televised broadcasts and has more than 3.7 million followers on Facebook.

Marc is author of 12 books and has shared the stage, and his voice, with Nobel Peace laureates, heads of state, celebrities, rock bands, actors and icons, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Sir Richard Branson, among many others.

Craig Kielburger is a social entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of a family of organizations dedicated to shifting the world from ‘me’ to ‘we.’ He co-founded Free The Children in 1995 when he was 12 years old. The organization’s sustainable development model is active in eight developing countries serving more than one million beneficiaries.

In North America and the United Kingdom, WE Schools & WE Day provide comprehensive service learning programs to 10,000 schools. Every year 200,000 students earn their free ticket through service projects to attend 15 We Day stadium celebrations, which bring together some of the world’s greatest icons of social change.

Alongside his brother Marc, Craig is also the co-founder of ME to WE, an innovative social enterprise that seeks to support the work of Free The Children by providing socially conscious products and experiences.

Craig is a New York Times bestselling author, who has published 12 books. He holds 15 honorary doctorates and degrees, has received The Order of Canada, and was named Canada’s Most Admired CEO in 2015.
Canada’s Most Admired CEO™ - 2014 Winners

Ellis Jacob  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Cineplex Entertainment  
2014 Enterprise Winner

Mr. Jacob has been working in the motion picture exhibition industry since 1987. Prior to assuming his current positions as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation in 2003, Mr. Jacob was Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Galaxy. Prior to founding Galaxy, Mr. Jacob represented Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc. as Head of Integration during 1998 and 1999. From 1987 to 1998, Mr. Jacob held various positions with COC as Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President and, ultimately, Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Jacob is a director and member of the audit committee of the Toronto International Film Festival Group. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of each of the Movie Theatre Association of Canada and the National Association of Theatre Owners, where he also sits as a member of its Executive Committee. In addition to his role as a Director of the Corporation, Mr. Jacob is a member of the Board of Directors of Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd., where he chairs the Audit Committee. Mr. Jacob is an active community member, currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors at Toronto’s Baycrest Centre for Geriatrics, where he chairs the Commercialization Committee and is a member of Baycrest’s Finance and Audit Committee and a member of the Board of Governors for Mount Sinai Hospital. He holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business as well as the accounting designations of Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant (FCPA), Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) and Fellow Certified Management Accountant (FCMA). He also holds the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. In 2010, Mr. Jacob was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, in 2013 he was recognized as Canada’s Most Innovative CEO by Canadian Business, and in 2014, he was recognized as Canada’s Most Admired CEO, Enterprise, by Waterstone Human Capital.

Ashley Cooper  
President & CEO  
Paladin Security Group Ltd  
2014 Mid-Market Winner

Ashley Cooper is the President & CEO of Paladin Security Group Ltd; Canada’s largest privately-owned, full-service security company with over 10,000 employees in offices operating from coast to coast.

Ashley started working with Paladin as a Security Officer while he was completing his Bachelor of Commerce Degree at the University of British Columbia. It was through this experience that Ashley learned the business from the ground up, recognizing the importance of
Security Officers to the success of the organization. Upon graduation, Ashley moved quickly from managing the four-person company, to acquiring the entity in what would be his first of many acquisitions within the security industry. Most recently, Ashley finalized an acquisition enabling Paladin to extend its brand into the United States with PalAmerican Security, operating now in 16 states across the country.

In 2012, Ashley was recognized as the Ernst & Young Pacific Regional Entrepreneur of the Year and since 2013, Paladin Security has been listed as one of Canada’s Best Managed Companies, achieving Gold Standard recognition in 2016. Paladin has also been recognized as one of Canada’s Top 10 Most Admired Cultures and Ashley was acknowledged with the 2014 British Columbia CEO of the Year Award for medium sized private companies, as well as being named Canada’s Most Admired CEO for mid-market companies in 2014 through Waterstone Human Capital and MacKay CEO Forums.

Today, after more than 40 years, Paladin continues to deliver excellence and value-added service offerings to clients and partners within hospitals, college campuses, governments, office towers, shopping malls, oil & gas facilities, hotels, residential high-rises, and industrial/ manufacturing facilities, among others.

As the company expands further within Canada and moves deeper into the US market, Ashley’s commitment to integrity and high standards remains. What makes Paladin different is that it is the only national, full service security company that is employee owned and operated. Unlike many of its competitors who are owned by private equity groups, Paladin makes long term decisions based on what is best for its clients and its team members, and it is this belief in constant and never ending improvement that has enabled Paladin to become the industry leader in quality throughout North America.

Alim Somani
President
Infusion
2014 Growth Winner

Mr. Alim Somani serves as President at Infusion, a global technology innovation firm with 700 employees worldwide that expedites digital business transformation in the enterprise. Mr. Somani is responsible for the high-level management and growth of Infusion’s services and solution offerings. Mr. Somani has a depth of knowledge and expertise in strategic management. Mr. Somani founded Infusion’s Toronto office in 2001 and ensured its success by establishing a near-shoring practice with a number of large Wall Street investment banks and he later expanded that model to include development centers in Poland. In 2017, Mr. Somani led the process that culminated in Infusion’s sale to Avanade, a thirty thousand person technology consultancy that is co-owned by Accenture and Microsoft. Mr. Somani continues to serve as Infusion’s President while overseeing Infusion’s business and the integration with Avanade.

Mr. Somani is recognized and respected as a global leader and visionary throughout the IT industry and the business community. Mr. Somani was named as Canada’s Most Admired CEO in 2014 and
Recognized as one of Canada’s Top 40 under 40 in 2006. Mr. Somani holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Waterloo in Electrical Engineering and resides in Toronto with his wife and three children.

Johann Koss
Founder, President and CEO
Right to Play
2014 Broader Public Sector Winner

Johann Koss is the President and CEO of Right To Play International. He oversees the global operations of the organization while also guiding Right To Play’s long term strategic direction.

Johann is an internationally recognized social entrepreneur who has been widely acknowledged for his work in promoting the use of sport and play as a tool for positive childhood development. He founded Right To Play in 2000, dedicating himself to growing it into an influential international non-government organization and a leader in the Sport for Development and Peace movement. The organization operates in more than 20 countries reaching over one million children each week. In 2014, it has an annual budget of $48 million, and will be supported by 600 staff worldwide and 16,400 volunteer Coaches.

Johann has received a number of awards for his philanthropic service and leadership. Most recently, he has received the 2013 LEGO Prize from the LEGO Foundation and the 2013 Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership. In 2012 he was awarded the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Special Citation award for social entrepreneurship, and in 2011 he received the Newman’s Own Award. Johann has been named by TIME Magazine as “One of 100 Future Leaders of Tomorrow” as well as been declared a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. He is also an Ashoka Global Fellow.

Before founding Right To Play, Johann was an Olympic speed skater and is considered to be one of the greatest winter Olympians of all time. At the 1994 Lillehammer Olympic Games, in his home country of Norway, he won three gold medals making world headlines. The 1994 Games proved to be the visionary launch point for the start of a movement that would bring the power of sport and play to children living in disadvantaged communities around the world and ultimately the organization that would become Right To Play.

Over the course of Johann’s athletic career, he won a total of four gold medals, broke 10 world records, won three World All-round Championships, and numerous World Cups and National Championships. As the result of his athletic accomplishments and simultaneous humanitarian efforts, Johann was named the 1994 Sportsman of the Year by Sports Illustrated, and was given the Jesse Owens Award, the International Athletic Foundation Award, and the Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award. Johann was presented the Child Survival Award by the Carter Center in Atlanta, and during the celebration of UNICEF’s 50th anniversary, was given UNICEF’s Honorary Award.

Johann has an undergraduate medical degree from the University of Queensland, and an Executive MBA from the
Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, at the University of Toronto. He has received honorary degrees from Brock University, the University of Calgary, the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the University of Aust Agder in Norway and most recently the University of Guelph-Humber.

In addition to his work with Right To Play, Johann is a Board member of Dream Global and Industrial REIT and Secunda Inc. He lives in Toronto, Ontario with his wife Jennifer and their children, Aksel and Annabelle.