# Speakers List

## Avi Friedman, Ph.D., OAQ

Professor of Architecture, McGill University and Principal, Avi Friedman Consultants Inc.

Avi Friedman began his studies at the Politecnico di Milano in Italy, received his Bachelor of Architecture from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in 1980 (first in class/*cum laude*), his Master of Architecture from McGill University and his Doctorate in 1987 from Université de Montréal. In 1988 he co-founded the Affordable Homes Program at the McGill School of Architecture, where he is a Professor. He is also an Honorary Professor in Lancaster University in the U.K.

Avi Friedman received his bachelor's degree in Architecture and Town Planning from the Israel Institute of Technology, his Master's Degree from McGill University, and his Doctorate from the University of Montréal. In 1988, he co-founded the Affordable Homes Program at the McGill School of Architecture where he teaches. He also holds an Honorary Professor position in Lancaster University in the U.K. Avi is known for his housing innovation and in particular for the Grow Home and Next Home designs. He's the author of 23 books and a columnist for several media outlets. He is the principal of Avi Friedman Consultants Inc. and the recipient of numerous awards including the Manning Innovation Award, Lifetime Achievement Award from Sustainable Buildings Canada and the World Habitat Award. In the year 2000 he was selected by Wallpaper magazine as 1 of 10 people from around the world "most likely to change the way we live."

# Speakers List

## Tim Hudak

### Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Real Estate Association

Tim Hudak is the CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association, Canada's largest provincial real estate industry association representing 78,000 REALTORS®.

Tim joined OREA after a distinguished 21 years of public service in the Ontario Legislature – including five years as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

Since becoming CEO in December 2016, he and his OREA team have focused on transforming OREA into Ontario's most effective professional association that delivers high-impact advocacy on behalf of REALTORS® and consumers, and provides quality services to members.

During his first year as OREA CEO, he was named one of the most powerful people in residential real estate by Swanepoel Power 200 2017/18.

He is married to Deb Hutton and together they have two daughters, Miller and Maitland.

# Speakers List

## Janet (Jan) De Silva

### President and CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade

Jan De Silva is President and CEO of the Toronto Region Board of Trade, one of the largest and most influential business organizations in North America. She is spearheading efforts to make Toronto one of the most competitive and sought-after business regions in the world.

Jan brings to the role more than 14 years of international CEO experience building ambitious, high-growth organizations. Anchored in her leadership is her belief in the power of economic development to lift communities.

Prior to joining the Board, she served as CEO of Sun Life Financial's Hong Kong and Mainland China businesses and co-founded and later sold Retail China Limited. Jan also served as Dean of Ivey Asia for Ivey Business School of Western University.

Highly respected for her business advocacy and government engagement, Jan has been Chair of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Chair of the Canada China Business Council in Beijing and served on the Board of the Asian Corporate Governance Association. In 2019, she was appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to represent Canada on the APEC Business Advisory Council. Jan also sits on the boards of Intact Financial Corporation, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange; and, Blue Umbrella Limited, a global compliance technology company headquartered in Hong Kong.

# Speakers List

## Randy Peddigrew

Senior Vice President, Land Development,
The Remington Group Inc.

Randy Peddigrew is the Senior Vice President of Land Development Division for The Remington Group. The Remington Group, under the guidance of its principle Rudy Bratty, has been developing land in the Greater Toronto Area for over 60 years. Remington is involved in the development and management of a vast portfolio of residential, commercial and industrial land in almost every community across the Greater Toronto Area.

Randy has worked in both the Public Sector and Private Sector. He has been in the development industry for 25 years.

# Speakers List

## Daniel Bragagnolo

### Assistant Vice President, Commercial Financing, First National Financial LP

Growth enabler. Problem solver. Precedent setter.

Daniel has been a part of the First National Financial commercial team almost ten years, and has worked on a team that has originated more than $5 billion in commercial financing.

For Daniel, it is critical to put clients in the best position for growth. Doing so takes dedication, hard work and sometimes, tough problem solving behind the scenes.

In Daniel's view, challenges create opportunities within deals, and those opportunities often become precedents in structure and financing. Committed to being a precedent setter, Daniel leverages programs like CMHC's Energy Efficiency initiative to give his clients the best advantages possible. He is also one of First National's foremost specialists in Affordable Housing, helping owners manage the complexities with smart financing solutions.

# Speakers List

## John Fox, B.Comm. LL.B.

Partner, Robins Appleby, Barristers and Solicitors

As a member of our Real Estate Group and Leader of our Housing Group, John represents clients acquiring, disposing, developing, and financing real estate. A former development executive, John brings a unique blend of legal and business thinking to his clients. He specializes in real estate development, social and affordable housing, and construction.

John possesses extensive front-line experience gained in his previous positions. As General Counsel, Development and acting Vice President, Development for Toronto Community Housing, he was responsible for the organization's redevelopment mandate, including as Regent Park. In that capacity he dealt with private sector partners and the City of Toronto on joint ventures, construction contracts, and funding agreements. John was also Chief Executive Officer of the Batawa Development Corporation, which is re- developing the former Bata Shoe factory in Batawa, Ontario. John's practice always involves the development of real estate – from acquisition, investment vehicles, financing, and construction. He acts for private developers, public sector actors, not for profits and co-ops.

John has unique knowledge and experience in the development of social and affordable housing having been active in the Housing Sector for the past fifteen years. Examples of his work since returning to practice include representing the City of Toronto on the incorporation of 80 units of affordable housing into a high end condominium building on the Waterfront, working with the Region of Peel on the development of its housing plan, and working on behalf of private developers participating in the delivery of affordable housing, including the Weston Artscape project. Recently, John represented Habitat for Humanity in negotiating a contribution agreement from a private developer intended to seed a land trust, which will develop housing in the local ward and across Toronto. In the Summer of 2019, John was part of a Rooftops Canada delegation to Durban, South Africa where he and the Rooftops team provided advice to government officials on the regeneration of housing stock in South Africa. John is active in his community. He is a former chair of the Laidlaw Foundation and the Daily Bread Food Bank and is now a retired hockey coach.

# Speakers List

## Christine Pacini

### Co-founder and Partner, SHS Consulting

Christine Pacini is a co-founder and partner of SHS Consulting, an independent consulting firm specializing in the housing field. Christine completed a Bachelor of Arts, specialized honours degree in public policy and administration at York University and graduate courses at Carleton University's School of Public Administration. Working primarily in the public and not-for-profit sectors, Christine has more than 30 years of professional experience in the areas of research and policy, management consulting and affordable housing development.

She has had an integral role in the preparation of more than 200 housing and related studies and has acted as project manager in the development of a wide range of affordable, supportive and transitional housing projects, from housing for seniors and persons with physical disabilities to housing for large families and youth.

Christine is also heavily involved in SHS Consulting's business model innovation practice, having worked on business cases for the creation of housing development corporations, the reimaging of the business offerings of community based housing organizations, and facilitating a range of Solutions Labs aimed at solving complex housing problems on behalf of CMHC.

Christine was on the Habitat for Humanity GTA Board of Directors between 2010 and 2020, including as Chair. She is a third year SheEO Activator, supporting female entrepreneurs in their quest to solve the world's problems.