

Growing Your Business in Challenging Times: What You Need to Know

Today's Agenda:

- Registration
- Networking session
- Panel discussion
- Lunch and Keynote Speaker

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Keynote Speaker:

The Honourable Ed Fast

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway

Minister Fast was first elected to the House of Commons in 2006 and was re-elected in 2008 and 2011. As Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, he is responsible for Canada's Global Commerce Strategy, which aims to create a more competitive Canadian economy by deepening Canada's trade and investment ties in large, dynamic and fast-growing economies around the world with focus on the EU, India and Japan. Minister Fast is also the lead minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

Panel:



Michael Badham

CEO, Strateva Partners (Moderator)

Strateva's team of bright young professionals creates and implements top and bottom-line growth strategies for mid-sized businesses. With 30 years of financial and leadership consulting under his belt, Michael possesses a unique skill set that can develop and deliver on the mission, vision, and operational goals of a business.

www.strateva.ca



Stephen Chan

Founder & CEO, Dapasoft Inc.

Dapasoft Inc. is a Toronto IT consulting company that delivers custom software solutions to clients in a variety of industries. Because of the firm's focus on innovation, attracting and retaining top talent as well and commitment to building lasting client relationships, Dapasoft has been deemed a Microsoft Certified Gold Partner.

www.dapasoft.com



Susan Niczowski

President & CEO, SummerFresh

Susan and her mother founded Summer Fresh in 1991 after they saw the need in the marketplace for fresh dips, salads and hummus. Since then, the company has grown to over 200 employees, two state-of-the-art facilities and over \$100 million in sales. Susan continues to use her passion for food and business acumen to grow and expand Summer Fresh with products that can now be found in grocery stores across Canada and the U.S.

www.summerfresh.com



Baljit Sierra

President & CEO, NOVO Plastics Inc.

Baljit founded NOVO Plastics Inc. in 2006. NOVO manufactures engineered plastic components and assemblies for both the automotive and commercial sectors with a focus on innovation, green technologies and R&D in these areas. With its headquarters in Markham, Ontario, NOVO has strategic alliances and sales offices around the globe in the US, Germany, India and Korea.

www.novoplas.com

Event Partners:



Toronto Region Board of Trade

Toronto Region Board of Trade connects 10,000 members and more than 200,000 business professionals and influencers throughout the Toronto Region. Small to medium enterprises make up two thirds of our diverse member base and span all industry sectors. The Board advances the success of its members and the entire region by facilitating opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking, business development and city building. Membership in the Board yields tangible ROI for its Members.

www.bot.com



Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1977, the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) is a not-for-profit non-partisan organization. Our programs and policies foster individual initiative, and the ability of members to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Canada. Our twin objectives are fostering bilateral trade between Canada and India, and creating business and professional opportunities for the Indian Diaspora in Canada.

www.iccc.org

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Ryerson University

Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career focused education and a university clearly on the move. Located in downtown Toronto, Ryerson is a distinctly urban university with a mission to serve societal need and a long-standing commitment to engaging its community. The university has 26,000 undergraduate and 2,300 graduate students – a culturally diverse student population from 146 countries. Entrepreneurship education is in the spotlight at Ryerson with more than 10 per cent of the student population actively engaged in entrepreneurial-focused degrees or courses, research, mentoring programs or workshops.

www.ryerson.ca



Royal Bank of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada works with more small business owners than any other financial institution in Canada. With a dedicated team of small business account managers who help clients with both their personal and business needs, RBC recognizes that small and medium enterprises are the lifeblood of the Canadian economy. RBC has a deep commitment to the diversity of its employees, clients and communities that helps them better understand their markets and deliver the best client experience. RBC offers relevant and practical advice for small business free of charge via the RBC Advice Centre. Topics include financing, improving productivity, managing cash flow, e-commerce and building a loyal customer base.

www.rbc.com



Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs

ACCE's mission is to encourage entrepreneurship and to strengthen the competitiveness of Chinese Canadian businesses in the global market. Its objective is to assist Chinese Canadians in developing new businesses by sharing their expertise through quality training and mutual support. These processes include providing a network for members to share resources, organizing seminars, workshops, conferences and other special programs on relevant business topics, and facilitating communication between government and new businesses.

www.acce.ca



Career Edge Organization

Since 1996, Career Edge Organization, a national not-for-profit, has been connecting multi-sector businesses with diverse, qualified talent through innovative paid internship programs for recent graduates, graduates with disabilities, and internationally qualified professionals. By connecting employers to qualified talent through our unique programs, Career Edge Organization facilitates the creation of meaningful work experiences to achieve business objectives and launch careers.

www.careeredge.ca



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