



# **LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2023**



# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

**Wednesday, October 11th | ACT Arts Centre**

## **PROGRAM**

# Agenda & Program

<b>8:00 am to 9:00 am</b>	Registration, Breakfast & Business Showcase
<b>9:00 am to 9:15 am</b>	Welcoming Remarks, His Worship, Dan Ruimy Mayor of Maple Ridge
<b>9:15 am to 9:20 am</b>	Message from the Hon. Rechie Valdez, Federal Minister of Small Business
<b>9:20 am to 9:35 am</b>	Keynote Address, Hon. Brenda Bailey, BC Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
<b>9:35 am to 9:45 am</b>	“Special Announcement,” His Worship, Dan Ruimy Mayor of Maple Ridge
<b>9:45 am to 10:45 am</b>	<b>PANEL + Q&amp;A 1:</b> Unpacking our City and Region’s Competitive Advantage <b>PANELISTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Laura Jones, President and CEO, The Business Council of BC</li><li>• Honourable Brenda Bailey, BC Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation</li><li>• His Worship Dan Ruimy, Mayor of Maple Ridge</li><li>• Jacquie Griffiths, President Invest Vancouver</li><li>• Josh Gaglardi, Orion Construction</li><li>• Marko Dekovic, Vice President Public Affairs, Global Container Terminals</li><li>• Matt Laity, Owner Laity Farms</li></ul>
<b>10:45 am to 11:00 am</b>	Networking Break & Business Showcase
<b>11:00 am to 12:00 pm</b>	<b>PANEL + Q&amp;A 2:</b> Moving the Dial on Business Retention and Expansion – Leveraging supports for local business <b>PANELISTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Laura Jones, President and CEO, The Business Council of BC</li><li>• His Worship Dan Ruimy, Mayor of Maple Ridge</li><li>• Kristi Maier, Executive Director Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• Cindy Stephenson, President Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association</li><li>• Karoline DeVries, Program Manager WorkBC</li><li>• Tyler Westover, Director of Economic Development City of Maple Ridge</li></ul>
<b>12:15 pm to 1:00 pm</b>	Lunch Break & Business Showcase
<b>1:00 pm to 1:30 pm</b>	Innovation Challenge Awards
<b>1:30 pm to 2:00 pm</b>	Closing Remarks, His Worship, Mayor Dan Ruimy and Business Card Draw
<b>2:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>	Networking Event Co-Hosted with Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Laura Jones, President and CEO, The Business Council of BC, Moderator**

Laura is a nationally recognized leader in public policy who is passionate about the importance of a strong economy as a foundation for supporting prosperous communities. As the new President & CEO of the Business Council, she looks forward to convening business, government, Indigenous and academic leaders to push forward a path to a competitive and strong B.C.

Laura has authored and co-authored numerous research reports and policy briefings on a wide range of topics and is recognized around the world for her thought leadership on regulatory modernization. Her work has been published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy.

She currently chairs the federal External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness and has served on advisory committees including a B.C. Expert Panel on Tax and the B.C. Small Business Roundtable. Laura received her B.A. in Economics from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and her M.A. in Economics from Simon Fraser University.



## **Hon. Brenda Bailey, BC Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation**

Small businessperson, tech entrepreneur, and change maker, Brenda Bailey was elected MLA for Vancouver-False Creek in 2020 and named British Columbia's Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation in December 2022.

Minister Bailey brings to her role a passion for expanding opportunity and economic innovation nurtured over a lifetime building new businesses, leading economic development initiatives, and serving the community. In every role she has taken on, she has worked to create a more inclusive community and economy.

Minister Bailey blazed new trails for women in tech as co-founder of Canada's first women-owned and operated video game studio. She helped strengthen and diversify B.C.'s creative tech industry as head of British Columbia's interactive and creative digital marketing association, DigiBC.

Today, as Minister of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation, Minister Bailey's focus is working with business, Indigenous and community leaders to drive the government's Stronger BC Economic Plan forward. For Minister Bailey that means growing an economy that benefits all British Columbians with support for business, expanded access to post-secondary education and skills training, meeting our climate commitments, and fostering innovation across our economy.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **His Worship Mayor Dan Ruimy, Maple Ridge**

Dan Ruimy brings 25+ years of experience as a business executive to his role as Mayor for the City of Maple Ridge. In his private career, he has developed and delivered strategic training and leadership programs for multiple organizations. Working in the hospitality industry, Dan Ruimy trained over 200 new franchisees and has assisted in the opening of over 140 franchise restaurants.

Born in Montreal, Quebec, he moved to BC's Lower Mainland in 1980 and eventually settled in Maple Ridge in 2011 when he opened his bookstore and coffeeshop 'Bean Around Books.' The combination of books, coffee and tea made the store a gathering place for community members and the store became a social hub for a diverse group of people who shared a love of reading and conversation on the issues of the day.

It was at this lively business that Dan Ruimy found inspiration for public service and was elected to serve as the Member of Parliament for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. In this role he took the discussion at the bookstore to the next level by creating community engagement through town hall meetings and round tables, representing the diverse voices in the community and face-to-face interactions with constituents of all political backgrounds.

In his role as MP, Mayor Ruimy was a passionate advocate for federal investments in Maple Ridge for infrastructure and programs to support seniors, youth and the environment.

In 2022, inspired by the passion he had seen in the representing the community during his time in Ottawa, he decided to run in the 2022 local election. In a heartfelt Inaugural Address, Dan Ruimy pledged to continue to engage the community and work collaboratively to build a strong vision for the City of Maple Ridge.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Jacquie Griffiths, President, Invest Vancouver**

As President of Invest Vancouver, Jacquie leads the regional economic development leadership service for Metro Vancouver. Her focus is on attracting strategic investment to Metro Vancouver, fostering region-wide collaboration, and propelling the economic growth needed for regional prosperity.

Before accepting the role of President, Jacquie was Executive Vice President and a founding member of Invest Vancouver, and took Invest Vancouver from a concept to reality. Since then, she has made significant strides in expanding Invest Vancouver and promoting the Metro Vancouver region globally, as well as establishing regional partnerships in key sectors such as tech, life sciences, and clean transportation. Under her leadership, Invest Vancouver has been a key player in landing multi-national enterprise investment into the region.

Jacquie holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia as well as a Master of Arts. She holds a designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D) and the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources (CPHR). She brings over two decades of leadership experience in a wide-range of sectors including mining, banking, education, and local government and has been recognized as one of Business in Vancouver's "40 Under Forty." Jacquie is currently a director and chairs the governance committee for the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources (CPHR) BC and Yukon. On the national stage, she was elected vice-chair of the Consider Canada City Alliance and in 2023, invited to join the World Trade Center Advisory Committee through the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade.



## **Joshua Gaglardi, Founder and President, Orion Construction**

Joshua Gaglardi, founder and President of Orion Construction, spearheads the company's projects from inception to completion. With a deep industry understanding and a knack for overcoming the challenges of light industrial and commercial construction, Joshua excels in navigating the intricacies of each municipality to provide a tailored, fresh approach to every project.

His impressive portfolio boasts the successful negotiation of contracts exceeding \$2 billion and the oversight of over seven million square feet of developments. Under Joshua's visionary leadership, Orion has rapidly become a market leader, ranking number one on The Globe and Mail Canada's Top Growing Companies list in 2022—a testament to the company's remarkable growth and success.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Marco Dekovic, VP Global Container Terminals**

Marko is an accomplished and recognized public affairs professional, in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. He has held increasingly senior management roles, with a focus on advancing and executing public policy that has impacted the economies of BC and Canada. Prior to joining GCT, Marko was part of the team at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority that implemented transformative tactics and strategies, including the launch of a major public awareness campaign, and providing strategic communications for the Vancouver harbour during defining events.

As a senior regional advisor to the Minister of International Trade and Foreign Affairs with responsibility for the 2010 Olympics and the Asia Pacific Gateway Marko played a critical role in delivering on Canada's Asia Pacific Gateways and Corridors Initiative. This included facilitating amalgamation of the three Lower Mainland port authorities into the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, opening of Fairview Terminal in Prince Rupert, and distribution of over a billion dollars in funding, matched by billions more by provincial, municipal and private sector investments resulting in Canada being recognized internationally for the success of a unique trade, logistics and infrastructure strategy that others have subsequently emulated.

Of particular note is Marko's ability to bring together often divergent stakeholders to collaborate for common solutions. Those skills were put to the test through his leadership role in creation of the Gateway Transportation Collaboration Forum, tasked with identifying, prioritizing and funding needed trade-enabling infrastructure in British Columbia. Currently Marko serves as the Vice-Chair of the British Columbia Marine Terminal Operators Association, board member of the National Association of Waterfront Employers in the USA, and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

Marko graduated from University of British Columbia (UBC) where he was involved in Alumni affairs. He chaired the UBC Young Alumni Network and was an active member of the UBC Alumni Association Board of Directors. A proud father of three young children, Marko is giving back in his community as a past Cabinet member for the "A Night of Miracles" gala in support of the BC Children's' hospital, and as the current Cabinet member for "What Really Matters" campaign in support of a new YMCA facility in Coquitlam.

Recognized for his achievements and demonstrated excellence in business, judgment and leadership in the community, Marko was awarded the Top Forty under 40 by Business in Vancouver in 2017.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Matt Laity, Owner, Laity Farms**

Matthew Laity is owner of Brookfield Farm in Maple Ridge. An organic dairy farm established in 1879, Brookfield has a mainly Holstein milking herd although they have started breeding a few other dairy breeds. The current herd consists of 80 cows. Brookfield Farm recently invited the community to their 'Barn-Warming' - a chance to introduce the public to a robotic barn; with automated milking machines and tracking on the farm, Matthew and his generational dairy operation are ushering in a new era for the business of farming in Maple Ridge.

Matthew Laity's family have a deep history in Maple Ridge as first settlers with his great, great grandparents John Laity and wife Mary Jane. In 1879, John Laity and William Hampton came up river from New Westminster to Maple Ridge by boat to have a look at some land they had heard about in the Royal City. Laity purchased 160 acres from John Hammond, and Hampton took land nearby. One hundred and thirty-five years later both families are still living on those homesteads.

Matthew Laity, currently runs the farm, and Heather Laity runs the pumpkin patch off 132nd Avenue. These farms continue the work from over 100 years ago and still have successor generations ready to carry on.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Kristi Maier, Executive Director Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce**

With over 6 years of chamber experience and a diverse employment background, Kristi Maier brings a wealth of knowledge and a strong passion for community development to her role at the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce (RMCC).

Previously serving as the Director of Operations at the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce, Kristi's journey has been shaped by over 15 years of experience in administrative roles, human resources, and real estate. Having started her chamber career in Langley, Kristi quickly developed a deep appreciation for the power of chambers of commerce in supporting local businesses and fostering economic growth. Her experience in the real estate sector further enriched her skill set, providing valuable insights into the needs and challenges faced by businesses in the community.

Joining the RMCC, Kristi feels honored to represent the vibrant communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Her passion for the organization and dedication to community building shines through in her work. With her extensive background in administration and human resources, she brings a unique perspective and valuable expertise to her role.

Outside of her professional life, Kristi cherishes her time spent exploring the picturesque trails of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows alongside her 8-year-old son, husband, and beloved dogs, Remington and Bowie. This personal connection to the community fuels her commitment to advocating for its growth and success.

Kristi is a true champion for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, driven by a genuine desire to make a positive impact. She eagerly looks forward to connecting with individuals, businesses, and organizations, fostering collaborations and partnerships that will further enrich the vibrant communities she serves. Whether you are a business owner, community member, or someone interested in the growth and prosperity of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, Kristi Watson is a dedicated advocate ready to engage, support, and connect.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Cindy Stephenson, President Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association**

Cindy Stephenson has lived, worked and shopped in Maple Ridge for over 38 years.

She currently owns T's - Once Upon a Tea Leaf, which moved from Haney Place Mall to 224th Street a number of years ago.

Cindy believes there is more to owning a business than the bottom line and she focuses on giving back to the community, by participating and donating to several local projects and charities. Cindy's creative passion is to think outside the box.

Cindy was the Events Committee Chair on the DMRBIA Board before and is excited about being on the BIA Board of Directors!



## **Karoline DeVries, Project Manager, WorkBC**

Karoline is a passionate and highly knowledgeable Project Manager with over 20 years of delivering employment programming within the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. Dedicated to creating programming that meets both the needs of the unemployed and the communities in which they reside, Karoline is well known as being an out of the box thinker with the ability to deliver and create programs on time and within budget while balancing micro and macro considerations. Her successful career has spanned numerous organizations, including with the Ministry of Social Employment, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Forest Renewal BC and Fisheries. Currently managing the WorkBC Employment Services program in Maple Ridge, she leads and empowers a team of nearly 20 professionals to provide support to unemployed/underemployed job seekers via career planning, job search, upskilling, self-employment, and disability related employment services. As well, Karoline's team at WorkBC Centre Maple Ridge also provides support to Employers in the form of Wage Subsidies, Recruitment, Events, Networking and Grant Information.

# Speaker & Panelist Biographies



## **Tyler Westover, Director of Economic Development, City of Maple Ridge**

Tyler Westover is the Director of Economic Development at the City of Maple Ridge. With over 16 years in Economic Development, he has deep and wide experience with multiple industries. He has led teams to attract, retain, or expand businesses in key sectors including value added energy (including production and demand markets for hydrogen/hydrogen carriers, circular economy, renewable power generation and waste to resource), value added agriculture (including ingredient and additive manufacture, plant protein fractionation and peptide synthesis), transportation and logistics, manufacturing (including petrochemical, fabrication, robotics, and others), aerospace/aviation, defence and security industries; along with commercial, retail, and tourism developments. Tyler has worked as a key liaison to Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association, Edmonton Region Hydrogen Hub, Villeneuve Landing Network (an aerospace and aviation focused investment attraction group), Edmonton Global, and the Designated Industrial Zone environmental outcomes working group for the Province of Alberta, among others. He now sits as the Co-Vice Chair of the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee in the Vancouver Metro Region, is an active member of the Fraser Valley Alliance, and represents the economic development interests of the City of Maple Ridge.

# Business Showcase Exhibitors





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