



SCIENTISTS
IN SCHOOL
SCIENTIFIQUES
À L'ÉCOLE

Scientists in School Board of Directors 2017

Dan Adirim

Dan Adirim is CEO and Founder, Groundswell Energy. His previous positions include: Vice President, Program Management at Cirba, Associate Vice President, Enterprise IT Operations at TD Bank Group and Vice President of IT Strategy and Architecture at Loblaw Companies Limited. He also spent 10 years as a Management Consultant at Accenture.

Dan holds a Bachelor of Science, Engineering Chemistry from Queen's University and is a Professional Engineer. He looks forward to the day his daughter is old enough to participate in a Scientists in School program.

Sharon Baker

A creative and innovative executive skilled in advancing change in not-for-profit and stakeholder-driven environments, Sharon Baker is a CPA, CMA and holds the ICD.D designation in governance from Rotman and the Institute of Corporate Directors. She has over 20 years of varied experience in healthcare in the hospital and home and community care sectors as well as with private technology companies.

Sharon is currently the Founder and CEO of wellSpring consulting, a private consulting practice she founded in 2002. She has provided strategic and governance advisory services to public and private health care organizations in the hospital, government, home care and long term care sectors.

She has extensive volunteer governance experience in healthcare and education and is currently the Chair of the Board of the Ontario Shores Foundation for Mental Health. Previous Board positions include founding Chair of Scientists in School, the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Smart Systems for Health, and the Ladies Links Tour Golf Association

Richard Barber

Richard Barber is Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Computershare. He was previously Senior Director of Pricing and Bid Strategy in the Wireless Business Segment at Rogers Communications. Prior to that he held a number of positions at Celestica including the role of Senior Director, Global Sales Operations. His formal education includes an MBA from Queens University and a B.Sc. in Honours Physics from the University of Western Ontario. Richard also holds the Professional Physicists (P.Phys.) license/designation (analogous to P.Eng.).

Richard is keenly interested in youth education and plays an active role on parent committees at his children's elementary school. Richard also serves on the Board of Directors at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club. The science bug is alive and well in their busy household with four junior scientists.

Greg Chownyk (Chair)

Greg Chownyk is General Manager, Canada Commercial & Industrial Marketing for Shell Energy North America- a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell group and leading marketer of natural gas and power. He has worked in the energy industry across Canada for 11 years and has held leadership positions in sales, marketing and strategy development. Greg holds an honours degree in Business Administration from Wilfred Laurier University.

Greg is keen to help Scientists in School achieve its mission in fostering excitement for science and technology in children of all ages. He believes the future leaders of our country will need to possess curiosity and innovation in these areas to ensure Canada remains a leader on the world stage.

Cara Clairman

Cara Clairman is President and CEO of Plug'n Drive, a non-profit that is accelerating the deployment of Electric Vehicles to maximize their environmental and economic benefits. In just over five years, Cara has taken Plug'n Drive from an idea to a thriving non-profit, recognized as a leader in the EV space. Cara has more than 20 years of experience working in the environmental and sustainability fields, including 12 years working at Ontario Power Generation, initially as OPG's environmental lawyer and later in the role Vice President of Sustainable Development. Prior to joining OPG, Cara spent five years practicing environmental law with the Torys law firm.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall and a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, as well as an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from Queen's University. Cara is currently driving the 100% electric Nissan Leaf as her personal car and she has her aspirations on the Tesla Model 3.

Diane Davy

Diane Davy is President and owner of Castledale Inc., a consulting company that specializes in business and marketing strategies for the cultural industries and marketers of quality children's products. Diane has held President and Publisher positions in several of Canada's most prestigious book and magazine companies, including Key Porter Books and OWL Magazines.

Throughout her career she has been an active participant in the various industries in which she has been involved, serving on the boards of the Association of Canadian Publishers, the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario, and the Association for the Export of Canadian Books and the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association. She also serves on the board of PEN Canada.

Cyril Dimitris

Cyril Dimitris is Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Toyota Canada Inc., the sales and distribution arm for Toyota and Lexus vehicles and parts in Canada. During his 28 year tenure with Toyota, Cyril has held several senior level positions, leading key areas including Finance, Human Resources, Information Services and Lexus. He holds an Honour Bachelor degree in Commerce and Economics from the University of Toronto and a CPA, CMA designation.

Cyril has engaged himself in volunteer activities throughout his career, many of those supporting children in some capacity. He has seen the positive impact Scientists in School have had on his own children and is excited about helping SiS bring the program to ever more young students, thereby building the enthusiasm towards science amongst our future leaders.

Cheryl Johnson

Cheryl Johnston is Senior Communications Advisor for Ontario Power Generation. She has successfully led innovative education and partnership programs in the nuclear energy industry for more than 30 years. These programs, based out of the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, have helped significantly grow community understanding and support for Pickering Nuclear's operation.

Cheryl also spent a rewarding seven years as a Scientists in School presenter inspiring young students to be inquisitive, innovative, and to have fun doing so. Her focus was on energy workshops and as a mentor, Cheryl helped train and support new presenters.

Cheryl is a proud parent of a Scientists in School workshop graduate who is now studying Environmental Physics at university.

David Munro

Dave has recently retired after a 35-year career at Xerox Canada. He held many senior roles including Director, Finance & Administration; Director Compensation; and Director, Information Management. He is now busy starting his new consulting company (davidgmunro.com).

Dave holds a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and is a CPA, CMA along with a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP). Dave has had a life-long love of mathematics and is strong believer in education. Dave is a former Chair of the Board of Frontier College.

Herman Ng

Herman is an Associate Director, Value Creation at Bell responsible for major productivity initiatives and cross-company program management. He also worked at OLG, TELUS and Honeywell in strategy, business transformation and operations planning, as well as pre-sales during his postings in Vancouver and Toronto.

A Professional Engineer of Ontario, Herman holds a BAsC in Engineering Science from the University of Toronto, a MEng from Simon Fraser University, and a MBA from the Rotman School of Management. Herman also volunteers as a mentor for engineering students at the University of Toronto and serves as a board member with Adventure Place.

Tony Redpath

Tony Redpath holds a Ph.D in Physical Chemistry (molecular dynamics), with post doctoral fellowships in West Berlin (ion – molecule reactions) and Toronto (polymer dynamics).

He moved to industry as a research scientist at EcoPlastics, a small technology based company developing photo-degradable plastic and other environmental technologies, and ultimately became President of the company. Following his departure from EcoPlastics he worked for the Ontario Centre of Excellence in the materials and manufacturing area. He played a number of roles there from managing corporate communications, to research project management and the commercialization of research results. He left the Centre of Excellence to join Primaxis where he has had the responsibility of evaluating investment opportunities, negotiating investments and managing the relationships with invested companies. While still acting as a Managing Partner at Primaxis, he took on the additional role of Business Advisor to MaRS Inc., an Ontario based convergence centre active in the medical sciences and related technology areas.

Tony is an avid amateur naturalist and having recently retired spends as much leisure time as possible at the family hobby farm raising bees, building bird houses, cutting cross country ski trails and making maple syrup with his two children.

Stephen Strauss

Stephen Strauss was a writer and columnist with the Globe and Mail for more than 20 years. In that time he has won numerous science writing awards and published three books and a book chapter. He has served as a member of Health Canada's Science Advisory Council, and has been part of a group helping the OECD set chemical standards. He is also included in the Canadian Who's Who.

He presently writes a regular column on science for CBC.ca and is on the selection committee for the Canadian Science and Technology Hall of Fame. Both his wife and his daughter are teachers and have shown him in a variety of ways how fun and important that is.

Rumina Velshi (Vice Chair)

Rumina Velshi is currently a Commission Member for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission having recently retired from Ontario Power Generation after a 32-year career with the company. Her last role was that of Director, Planning and Control, Darlington New Nuclear Project. In that role, she was the commercial lead from OPG for the procurement of nuclear reactors for the Darlington site as well as

responsible for developing and implementing the project management infrastructure for one of the largest mega capital projects in Canada.

Rumina holds a B.A.Sc (Civil Engineering), M.Eng (Chemical Engineering) and an MBA - all from the University of Toronto. Throughout her career, Rumina has worked relentlessly on promoting careers in science and engineering - especially for women. She is the founding member of Women in Science and Engineering (Canada), currently a member of the Board of Directors of Women in Nuclear (Canada), a regular judge at science fairs and a long-standing speaker and panelist at career symposiums and conferences.

Lisa Watson

Lisa Watson is the Principal of Strategies for Social Impact, and a Faculty Member with the Canadian Organizational Development Institute. Lisa is a skilled strategist with nearly 20 years of experience designing and delivering high impact initiatives in the health, social and community services domains. As a consultant, public speaker, coach and volunteer mentor, she advises on strategy, systems change, strategic evaluation and learning, collaboration and organizational development.

Lisa has held senior positions leading policy and strategy development in the Ontario provincial government and the charitable nonprofit sector. She has extensive experience developing successful partnerships across community, government and private sectors to address complex problems and systems change. She works with funders, foundations and organizations to track and measure their impact, and develop cultures of learning and evaluations that enable adaptations, innovation and increased effectiveness. She is a highly skilled listener, communicator and writer who takes a consultative approach that is based in evidence and best practice, and that builds positive and trusting relationships among all stakeholders.

Lisa is a graduate of the University of Waterloo-McConnell Foundation Graduate Diploma in Social Innovation and also holds degree from Dalhousie University in Psychology and Social Work. She has received extensive training in complexity science, systems analysis, polarity and integrative thinking, design thinking and leadership.

Michael Wosnick

Michael Wosnick recently retired from the Canadian Cancer Society where, as Vice-President of Research and Scientific Director of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, he oversaw the Society's national research programs and played an important leadership role in engaging the public to build understanding of, and commitment to, cancer research. He became a much sought-after public speaker, logging nearly 100 talks about research across the country. Prior to joining the Canadian Cancer Society, he served as the Executive Director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Michael brings 35 years of experience encompassing the academic, biotechnology and not-for-profit sectors to Scientists in School. He has been a member of eight Boards of Directors and has held dozens of leadership and management roles in not-for-profit organizations.

He holds a B.Sc. degree from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology from Queen's University in Kingston, and did further training as a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Medical Research Council of Canada, conducting research in the fields of molecular biology and gene expression at the University of Calgary Medical School.